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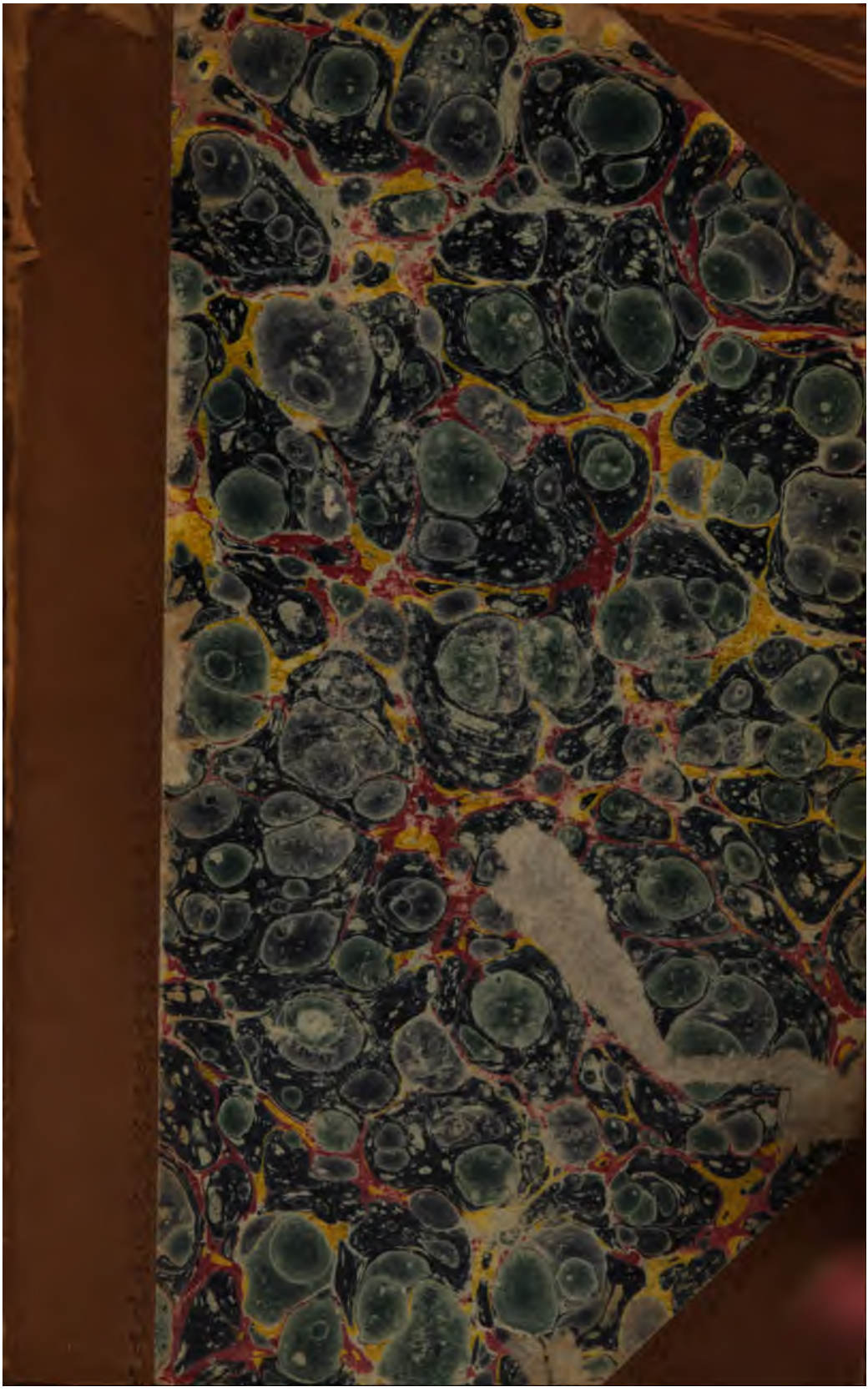

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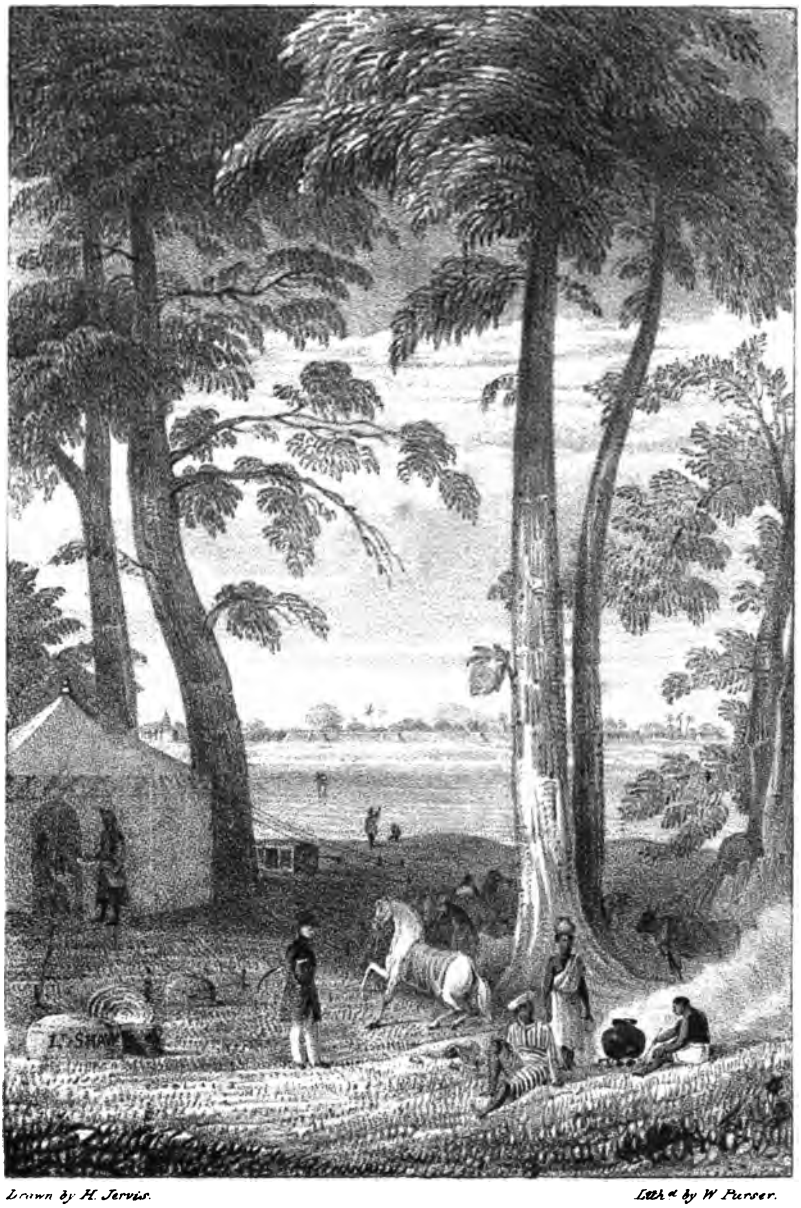

Drawn by H. Jervis. Lith.d by W. Parker.

FORT OF SOOSILY ON THE CAVERY.

Published by Smith Elder & Co. Cornhill, London

NARRATIVE OF A JOURNEY

TO THE

FALLS OF THE CAVERY;

WITH AN

Historical and Descriptive Account

OF THE

NEILGHERRY HILLS.

BY LIEUTENANT H. JERVIS,
H. M. 62nd Regt.

Illustrated with Plates.

My humble pen, in unambitious strains,
Paints the blue mountains and the verdant plains;
Where health, on bilious cheeks bids roses spring,
And scatters blessings from her radiant wing.

SECOND EDITION.

LONDON:
SMITH, ELDER AND CO., CORNHILL.
1834.

515.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY STEWART AND CO.
OLD BAILEY.

TO

THE RIGHT HONORABLE

STEPHEN RUMBOLD LUSHINGTON,

LATE GOVERNOR OF MADRAS,

&c. &c.

SIR,

THE work published by Captain Harkness, containing a description of a singular aboriginal race, inhabiting the summit of the Neilgherry Hills, was fitly dedicated to you, by whom so much has been done for the prosperity of the European settlement established there.

A similar reason would have pointed you out to me as the desired patron of my sketches and description of the Falls of the Cavery, because there also the difficulties of the Tra-

veller have been removed, as I have had the gratification of experiencing, by the prudent acts of the Government of Fort St. George during the time when you presided over it. But I have a strong additional reason for dedicating this little work to you, because I owe it to your kindness, and that of Mr. ROBERT HERBERT CLIVE, that I have had the means of making this publication a Guide to the Neilgherries as well as to the Falls.

If the Indian or English reader shall experience but a small portion of the pleasure which I have had in completing these sketches, during the tædium of a long voyage from India, I shall be excused for the presumption of this my first intrusion on the public attention.

I beg to remain,

Right Honourable Sir,

With much respect,

Your most obedient and humble servant,

H. JERVIS.

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CHAPTER I.

Hail noble Cavery! Of thee I sing.
Thy rolling waters to the vallies bring
A welcome succour; with a liberal hand
Bestowing plenty to a burning land.

"Oh, could I flow like thee, and make thy stream
"My great example, as it is my theme!"

DENHAM.

THE Cavery rises in the mountains which divide the Southern Peninsula of India, and after flowing for about three hundred miles through Mysore, is first seen in its beauty and utility at Seringapatam. Rushing rapidly over the iron-coloured rocks scattered in its bed, it encircles the Fortress and Island of Seringapatam, and by an ingenious native aqueduct, a part of its waters which flow near the spot where Lord Harris's camp and breaching batteries were established, are used in cultivating the land,

leading to the city of Mysore, the classic ground of British heroism and generosity in 1799.

The works and the neighbourhood of Seringapatam have been so often and so well detailed, that nothing remains for me to add, but that I could not survey these scenes without reverence for the statesman, Marquis Wellesley, by whose counsels the British Army was directed against this capital; and for the commander-in-chief, Lord Harris, by whose skilful conduct of the campaign and the siege, the British colours first floated in triumph upon the battlements. Cold too must that heart be which can contemplate without some feelings of pious awe, the monuments of fallen greatness which surround him. But it is an awe mixed with the honest pride of an Englishman.

It is impossible to see the splendid tombs and religious establishments of Hyder Ally and Tippoo Sultan, and their wives and relations, so carefully preserved and protected by the British government, or to look at the munificent provision made for their adherents, without remembering the English sentiment, which the progress of the war in 1791 called forth from

Sir W. Meadows, as brave and honourable an officer as ever lived, that "an enemy conquered is an enemy no more." In this spirit not only the government, but individuals seem to have acted; for Tippoo's vindictive picture of his father's triumph over Colonel Baillie's detachment remains upon the walls of the Dowlut Baug, as visible as when the great Captain of Waterloo commanded the place more than thirty years ago. But the heart sinks in contemplating the crowded memorials of those of our fellow countrymen who have since fallen under its pestilent climate, especially if the traveller has ever felt the sting of a Mysore Fever as I have done. Nor is this feeling abated by remembering the still greater number of victims to disease, during the governments of Hyder and Tippoo. At one period they were so appalling as to have led the Sultan to serious thoughts of abandoning it, as the seat of his administration.

Out of many thousand natives who were compulsorily brought from the Malabar Coast and made Musselmans, only five hundred survived at the end of ten years to relate their tragic expulsion from their own habitations, and out of five hun-

dred Europeans and artificers brought from the Isle of France, only twenty-five outlived five years' residence on this Island. It had been happy for the dynasty of Tippoo if he had listened, in this single instance, to the united dictates of humanity and self-preservation; for the possession of this formidable military position fostered that towering ambition, which did not cease until it had prostrated him under the dust of its battlements.

After passing the limits of this fertile and beautiful, but mournful Island, the Cavery descends in one stream towards Soosily. Here the army under Lord Harris crossed by a masterly and unexpected movement; and by securing for the use of the British troops those supplies which Tippoo had collected for his own, hastened the downfall of his empire and the entire conquest of his dominions.

At this place the Cavery receives its first great auxiliary stream, the Cubhany, which, flowing past Nunjengode, the favored residence of Mr. Cole and Mr. Casamajor (the two last honorable Agents of the British Government in Mysore) brings into its course the alluvial treasures of

Wynaud, a country teeming with the richest productions of Nature. Farther on, the Muddoor river falls into it, fraught with the soil of the country, through which it impetuously passes; and the Cavery, now greatly enlarged in its limits, occupies a bed of nearly a mile broad, varying from fifteen to twenty feet deep, before it reaches the western point of Sivasamoodrum. Here the river is divided by the rocks which oppose its course, and the two streams, after encircling the Island, again unite at the southern extremity. But in their passage they descend by two separate falls, not exceeded in magnificence and beauty by any yet discovered in any part of India. Even the Fall of Niagara as described by Capt. Hall and Mrs. Trollope does not exceed in height one hundred and sixty feet.

The Northern Fall of the Cavery is about three-hundred feet; the Southern Branch about two-hundred. The cheering sounds of these great streams, in their descent, are fit heralds of the gladness which they convey to the plains below, where all nature languishes in the month of June with heat and drought. Without any previous notice, in the midst sometimes of a ra-

diant sun, or in the stillness of the night, it comes sweeping down with plenty and with healing in its course.

Those only who have seen the haggard eyes and emaciated forms of the people, when its descent has been delayed by a late season, and who have also witnessed the joyful countenances which proclaim its timely arrival, can form an adequate notion of its value. It seems indeed to be one universal jubilee. Men, women and children, herds and flocks, and birds, and every living thing, within reach of its shores, crowd upon its banks, and do homage to the God of nature, through whose bounty, the plentiful harvests of Trichinopoly and Tanjore are dispensed in due season through half the southern peninsula.

The scenery and manner of the descent of the Cavery at Sivasamoodrum are in harmony with its greatness and goodness. All pictorial representations must however convey so feeble an outline, that to be adequately understood, it must be seen; and all I propose to myself is, to increase the temptation to others to visit it, as I have done.

There was a time when the passage of the Cavery, before it reaches Sivasamoodrum, and the residence upon the Island, was full of difficulty and danger; but these both are now at an end. The Jagheerdar of the Island, Ramasamy Moodliar, under the encouragement of the government, has erected two stone bridges over the two branches of the river; and upon the Island he has built bungalows and choultries for the comfort of Europeans and natives; both are so well supplied and kept by him, that the traveller has now no inconvenience or trouble, if he takes care to go at the proper season, which does not commence till the Cavery descends in July, and ceases about November when it begins to be empty. These are splendid works, raised as they have been by the piety and munificence of a single Hindoo. The expence incurred in their execution has exceeded two lacs of rupees; and they afford a memorable example of what may be achieved by individual exertion, when encouraged by kindly intercourse, and fairly supported by the fostering hand of the Government.

Of the traditionary account of these Falls,

which is generally told to persons visiting them, it is not for me to decide how much may be fabulous; I shall only endeavour to describe the Falls as I saw them, of which a general view is given in the annexed sketches.

The northern branch of the river passes under the bridge recently completed by Ramasamy the the Jagheerdar. During the last season, the river, which is here seventeen hundred feet broad, was unusually full, but still there were three feet of space above it.

Thence it winds along the southern side of a mountain until it reaches the high land forming the Island on the eastern side. Here it begins to descend with considerable rapidity, till it arrives at the head of the great cataract Gungan Chuckee, so called in consequence of a Rajah of the Island, whose name was Gungan, having about seven hundred years ago leapt his horse down at this place, at the command of the divinity of the island, in order to cleanse himself from a pollution he had unknowingly received. Such is the legend related by an inhabitant of this lovely spot, remarkable as the site of the

Drawn by W. Jervis. Engd by W. Varrall.

FALLS OF CLYDE AT CORRA LINN.

ancient Hindoo city of Gungan Para; of which some part may still be traced.

A little above this cataract, this branch of the river is divided into two, encircling a smaller island, which swarms with tigers; but in the rainy season there is no communication with the larger island, from the velocity of the current; however, the latter has its share of these ferocious beasts. The cataract nearest this latter island is by far the largest, and has worn its channel deeper than the other. About half way down, there is a confluence, when the river is not quite full, of two separate streams, dashing upon huge masses of rock, and thence plunging together into the chasm below. The second branch flows along a higher part of the rock, whence at right angles to the greater cataract it rushes into the middle of the river in two columns.

"And from the loud resounding rocks below,
"Dashed in a cloud of foam, it sends aloft
"A hoary mist, and forms a ceaseless shower."

THOMPSON.

Here flights of birds are frequently hovering and feeding upon the sides of the mountain,

probably upon the smaller fish precipitated down the stream. When the river is quite full, it falls in one unbroken cataract to the vale below, and its sudden violence, as it rushes down this deep descent, is beautifully contrasted with the calmness of its subsequent gliding through a valley, formed by the steep banks of two mountains overhung with trees of great variety, whilst the brushwood and long grass of the bottom afford shelter to tigers, elks, hogs, and all the feathered tribe of game. Here I am told our worthy commander in chief Sir R. O'Callagan had, last season, the satisfaction of shooting a fine elk.

The fall on the southern branch of the river is called Bir Chuckee, and is about two miles from Gungan Chuckee; a good road connecting the two. The channel of the river here is spread out to a magnificent expanse, and its stream, which is divided into seven distinct cataracts of nearly the same height of two hundred feet, cannot be advantageously seen without descending a long flight of steps, that lead down to the abyss, into which they fall. The eye is then delighted with the descent of these differ-

Drawn by H Jervis

Published by W Faden

FALLS OF [illegible]

ent branches of the stream, (forming an amphitheatre) rushing over and past the rocks and trees and small islets, around which the various streamlets and eddies play, and fall into the chasm, worn by their descent; whence the river—

> "Gains a safer bed, and steals at last,
> "Along the mazes of the quiet vale."
>
> THOMPSON.

If an objection can be made to this view, it is, that it appears somewhat too lonely amidst all its loveliness. After enjoying it for some time, I was glad to retrace my steps and view the fleecy clouds rolling round the mountain to the left of the greater fall, which, gilded by the glory of the setting sun, and enlivened by the calling and rapid evolution of the birds collecting for their evening flight, were calculated to fill the mind with admiration of the wisdom and power of the Great Creator.

Having taken my last look of this sublime scene, I returned to a pleasant and retired spot, called the Fakir's Retreat, comprising, besides the dwellings of a few of the sect, a tomb and garden, which are kept with great care and neat-

ness. The Fakirs in attendance, who beg alms of visitors through the medium of a present of fruits and flowers, told a long story of their saint, whose remains lie buried there; and spoke, as became them, with grateful respect of the liberality of the present Jagheerdar, from whom they have received so much kindness.

It was gratifying to see that their countenances did not manifest those extreme signs of debility and sickness which might have been expected, in persons exposed throughout the year to the fever which too often visits the Island in the dry season, when the mountains on the north-eastern side obstruct the circulation of air; and the dews of the night, and the extreme rays of the sun during the day, generate the rankest vegetation, and rapidly corrupt it. Let me advise all travellers to this celebrated spot, not to sleep on the island in the dry season, and not to expose themselves to the night air, at any period. The bridge being now finished, the safer plan is to effect a retreat in the evening to Bulkawaddy, a village about two miles from Sivasamoodrum, where Ramasamy's

hospitality has provided a comfortable bungalow.

The Cavery, after leaving the island of Sivasamoodrum, gradually descends until it reaches Bhavany; here it is joined by the beautiful river to which that town and handsome Pagoda give their name; itself composed of two streams, which nearly encircle the Neilgherries, bringing with them the decayed vegetation and superfluous mould of those hills. About Bhavany there are numerous islands, formed by the river, filled with pea-fowl and aquatic birds, that afford amusement to the sportsman, and which can only be approached in the round bamboo basket-boats used upon this river.

To him who has any natural turn or love for watery excursions, I recommend a descent on the Cavery, when it is pretty full, and though his nerves may be a little shaken, when he goes whirling down the eddies, formed in the river by the obtruding rocks, he cannot fail to admire the extreme dexterity with which the boatmen escape from the rock almost at the moment of touching it. One gentle turn of the paddle

when the boat is rapidly impelled by the current, is so effective, that it seems as if there was a repulsive power in the rock which forbade the boat to touch it.

At Caroor, the Ambravutty, and a little higher the Noel, fall into the Cavery. All these great streams, now united into one bed, wind in a serpentine course through the valley of Sankerrydroog, from whose top the Cavery is seen in great magnificence. But large as is the supply of water, the labours of the husbandmen, and the wants of every living thing upon the plains in the dry season, nearly exhaust it, before it reaches the sea; so that of this great stream there is but an imperfect branch when it reaches Porto Novo, after washing the shores of the Island of Seringham, the Rock of Trichinopoly, and the walls of Chillumbrum, so often the scenes of the immortal Clive's early glory!—

CHAPTER II.

"Away our journey lies through dell and dingle,
"Where the blithe fawn trips by its timid mother,
"Where the broad tree with intercepting boughs,
"Chequers the sun-beam in the greensward alley—
"Up and away! for lovely paths are these
"To tread, where the glad sun is on his throne;
"Less pleasant, and less safe, when Cynthia's lamp
"With doubtful glimmer lights the dreary forest."

ETTRICK FOREST.

BIDDING adieu to the noble river Cavery, I shall endeavour to present to the reader some inducement to proceed from its beautiful falls to the Neilgherry Hills. But if he can go to the Hills first, and to the Falls afterwards, he will see and enjoy both to the greatest advantage. After leaving the sacred Island of Sivasamoodrum, the first place in the route is Sattigaul, the chief village of Ramasamy Moodliar the hospitable Jagheerdar. From thence to Cooligaul, one of the best cultivated of the Company's pergunnahs, is about ten miles; and at the same

distance from Cooligaul is Shamrauz-nugger, in Mysore, one of the Rajah's family villages. Here there is a choice of two routes, either down the Guzzlehutty Pass, and up to Coonoor, or to Goondulpet, and thence to Ootacamund. The route by Guzzlehutty is the most direct, and provided the pass is not suffered to become dangerous by the inattention of the civil authorities to the destruction of the tigers that infest it, it is best. The distances by each route are given in the Appendix. Having reached Mateepollium on the right bank of the Bhavany, the traveller will there find an excellent bungalow, with servants in attendance, to give him, upon payment, what he requires. On that rapid river, I understand, that a suspension bridge of ropes is now constructing; and after crossing it, you pass a thriving village, recently laid out and inhabited, where all requisite supplies may be obtained.

The geographical limits of the Neilgherry Hills have been so fully and accurately described by Captain Harkness of the Madras army, that public curiosity has nothing farther to require upon the local boundaries of this extraor-

dinary region; and his faithful and animated description of the singular aboriginal race inhabiting the summit of the hills would render any observations upon their manners and customs superfluous. What is now wanted, is a good guide to reach and enjoy this Indian Paradise; and I hope these pages may assist the traveller there, either for the recovery or the preservation of his health.

Let not the reader imagine, because I write warmly, I am not writing accurately: there have been in India, and I believe there are still some persons in England very sceptical about the climate and beauty of the Neilgherries. One of the stoutest Indian doubters was the late Bishop of Calcutta, who, having just passed the month of June in the withering climate of Calcutta, and being then exposed to the stifling heat of the Choultry plain, could not understand why, in a place in the midst of the torrid zone, two degrees nearer the equator even than Madras,—

> "Cool zephyrs through the clear blue sky,
> Their gathered fragrance fling."

This is indeed one of those phænomena of

nature, which more learned persons than myself must explain, for in no other part of the world has there yet been discovered such an approach to perpetual spring. But all that science and industry can do in illustrating this beautiful region of mountains and vallies will soon be accomplished by Drs. Baikie and Christie, and Mons. Jacquemont the celebrated French naturalist, who is now there for the purpose.

In the course of twenty-four hours the variation of temperature is seldom greater than six degrees, and the thermometer in its highest range has never been known to reach seventy of Fahrenheit. It was not until the Bishop found there was a church to be consecrated at Oatacamund, that his doubts about the climate, and difficulties of the journey yielded to that exalted sense of public duty, which governed all his thoughts, words and works; and I cannot present to the traveller a surer pledge of the enjoyment he will find there, than in transcribing the following letters from that excellent prelate to the Right Hon. Mr. Lushington when Governor of Madras.

Oatacamund, Dec. 4th, 1830.

MY DEAR SIR,

I owe you a large debt of thankfulness, in the first place for having made it clear to me that I ought to visit these delightful Hills, and in the second, for the complete and admirable manner in which by your directions the arrangements have been made, both for the journey, and accommodation here. The kindness which prompted so much attention, will be gratified in knowing that it has been accomplished in every particular. To all the public functionaries I am under much obligation; but Mr. Casamajor's splendid hospitality, the consideration and foresight with which his plans were laid to ensure expedition, and to guard against inconvenience; his kind and gratifying attention, made our three days at Yelwall absolutely *jours de fête*, and left only the regret that what was so very agreeable should be so very transitory. The Hills far exceed any thing I allowed myself to expect. I have been racking

my memory for something to compare them with: the closest resemblance I can find, is Malvern at the fairest season; but the extent and bold variety gives these a decided superiority. We had yesterday a continued rain, and this was necessary perhaps to moderate the estimate I should have formed of their perfect enjoyableness. But Thursday morning soon after sunrise, on the summit of *Doddabetta*, and this morning on the hill in front of this house, I had a fuller sense of the enjoyment to be derived from air and natural scenery, than I ever remember to have experienced at any time, or at any place.

Of the capacity for agricultural improvements which really exists here, no one can doubt who looks duly at the state of the gardens; we were yesterday disappointed of a proposed visit to the farm, but Major Crewe has kindly promised to accompany me this evening, and I hope to give it a careful inspection. All that I have hitherto seen, leads me to suppose that this would be the very place I have been so anxious to find out ever since I had an opportunity of looking into the real state of the

community in India, where we might establish an agricultural settlement under the authority and direction of the government.

I am sure that all classes of society in India would benefit by the advantages which must follow upon such a plan, if well conducted. I shall beg permission to lay before you, somewhat in detail, the views I entertain upon this subject, and if they obtain your approval, I would afterwards submit them to the Governor General, and the President of the Board of Control.

There is another project which is very much in my mind, in reference to the future condition of the natives who reside on the hills, or who are brought hither with a view to employment. An outline of this plan I take leave to enclose. With respect to the funds necessary for its establishment and maintenance, I have no doubt I shall be able to procure them either from individuals, zealous in the good cause, or from the Society for promoting Christian Knowledge, should you be disinclined to undertake it in behalf of the government—or rather I would confine my application for assistance to the

necessary grant of land, and such countenance as you may think it expedient to give to a measure, bearing so directly on the social and moral improvement of the native inhabitants.

I hope on Monday to have occasion to address a public letter to your Excellency in council, thanking you for the erection of the church, which will be consecrated and opened for divine service to-morrow. My letter will also convey an earnest representation of the urgent necessity that exists under the actual and possible circumstances of this place, that it should be made permanently a chaplain's station; the duties which would belong to it, are in the highest degree important and interesting, and they are of such a nature, that they ought not to be confided to, for certainly they would not be discharged by, any individual who had been obliged to resort hither by the failure of his own health.

I do most heartily wish that I could look at it as coming within the limits of my authority, as diocesan, to direct Mr. Sawyer to remain on the hills for the purpose of taking the clerical charge provisionally; this however is out of the

question, and I must confine myself *officially* to a strong recommendation that a chaplain should forthwith be appointed. As a matter of private judgment, I will not decline to add that if the appointment were made in Mr. Sawyer's behalf, I have no doubt the duties would be performed most satisfactorily. He possesses all the requisites for an efficient discharge of them, novel and burthensome as they must be. I have written at so much length on matters of local interest, that I dare not extend my view to the alarming news which has just reached us. Is France again to be the crater of a volcano to desolate the civilized world? It is a frightful possibility. Our's is Bombay news from Glasgow, of the 2nd of August. The next arrivals will probably bring something more distinct and certain than these rumours.

I have the honour to remain,
Dear Sir,
With much respect,
your obliged and obedient servant
(Signed) J. M. CALCUTTA.

To the Right Hon. S. R. LUSHINGTON.

Cannamore, Dec. 11th, 1830.

MY DEAR SIR,

I cannot take leave of the Madras presidency, without requesting permission to renew my thanks, for the unvarying kindness and attention I have experienced from every member of the goverment, and from all the subordinate authorities during my journey. I ascribe this wholly to your powerful interference, and feel myself bound, in consequence, to endeavour to convey my thanks in such a form as may give them the character of being what they really are, personal rather than official.

We left Oatacamund on Tuesday morning at seven, and reached the top of the pass about mid-day. We found a tent pitched in a situation of unequalled magnificence on a green summit, commanding a boundless extent of prospect and backed by one of those wooded slopes with a waterfall, which form the charms of Neilgherry scenery. Here we took leave of Major Crewe, and however suspicious it may appear to give

good words in requital for kind offices, I cannot help saying how much I am struck with the practical good sense that shews itself in all Major C.'s arrangements. He not only sees *what* these hills may be made, but *how* the work is to be done; and he sets about doing it with a patient adaptation of his means to his wants, which must I think, and at no very distant period, ensure success. The order and productiveness of the storehouse garden at this moment may serve to prove what the whole settlement may become, if the same systematic attention be bestowed upon it. Since I have seen the Neilgherries I am less anxious to *give* to the Hindo-Britons any portion of them for a settlement. The advantages are so considerable, and must, I conceive, be realized so rapidly under the protection, and with the encouragement of the government here and at home, that you need *give* nothing more. Whatever grants of land you make, whether to individuals or companies, let the grant be for three or five years, rent free, and then give a lease for twenty-one years at a corn rent, at the rate of one-third the estimated

produce; either party (viz. the government or the occupier) having a right to demand a new valuation every seven years, on the principle of Mr. Goulburne's admirable Irish Tithe Bill. A very considerable revenue, very easily levied, would thus accrue to government; and this amongst other advantages is surely not to be overlooked. We had the thermometer at 60° in the tent, with that soft freshness which belongs especially to the Neilgherry atmosphere. At Goodaloor, two hours later, it was at 80°, close and stifling. We had a rough and in some respects perilous scramble through the jungle to Mannantoddy, but the excellent arrangements which had been made brought us through. I must not enter on the wonders of the Wynaud, further than to observe that I am more than ever astonished at the apathy and ignorance which prevail at home with respect to the resources of India. The cotton, coffee, and tobacco, of this district, its mineral and other spontaneous productions, would with even moderate care and pains, become an overflowing stream of wealth, and of that which statesmen

love best, revenue. I never saw a country, which with a little management, might be rendered so *gloriously taxable.*

I must not return your instructing financial paper, without thanking you for the paragraph respecting the ecclesiastical establishment of your presidency.

It is a most valuable testimony, and I need not say how important it is at this moment. — My own close observation enables me thus to accept the commendation on behalf of the clergy as frankly as it is given. Scantily as our church establishment is provided, as a system, it is, as far as it goes, quite efficient, and I am persuaded that much of the improvement now so happily discernible in Indian society may be ascribed, either in its origin, or its support to the influence of the chaplains. There are exceptions, but they apply to individuals only; and if more care is taken by those who enjoy the patronage, such exceptions will soon become even less frequent. I am ashamed of the length of my letter, and will only add a request that when you hear with certainty who has moved the wires which have set that *puppet show*, France,

would be impracticable to them; and that, the privation aud suffering of a long journey over the heated plains of India, the expence of travelling and of living on the Hills, shuts them out, in a measure, from sharing in what the Bishop calls "*Malvern at the fairest season, but in extent and bold variety decidedly superior, and where he had a fuller sense of the enjoyment to be derived from air and natural scenery, than he ever remembered to have experienced at any time, or at any place.*"

But these difficulties have now no substantial foundation. There are good public bungalows and good roads from Madras through Bangalore and Mysore to Oatacamund, and through the Baramahl; and the best proof of both is, that a gentleman has driven his wife in a tandem from Madras to Oatacamund and back, and when the lady was asked how she liked it, said, "nothing would give her so much pleasure as to perform the journey in the same manner again, except going to England."

I have given in the Appendix, the places to halt at, and the distances, both on the upper and lower roads, to the Neilgherry Hills, through

spects, the residents will derive much benefit from his valuable services.

I am thus far on my way to Columbo purposing to call at Cochin. Should my health (which seems quite re-established) permit, and the season prove not unfavourable, it is my intention to proceed from Ceylon by the coast route, so as to visit Trichinopoly, Tanjore, and Cuddalore, and to reach Madras before Easter. I must not hope to find you there at that season. Indeed I should be much disappointed to know that you were not on the Hills, where Major Crewe's operations will, I am persuaded, interest you considerably, and receive great benefit from your presence.

I remain,

My dear Sir, &c. &c.

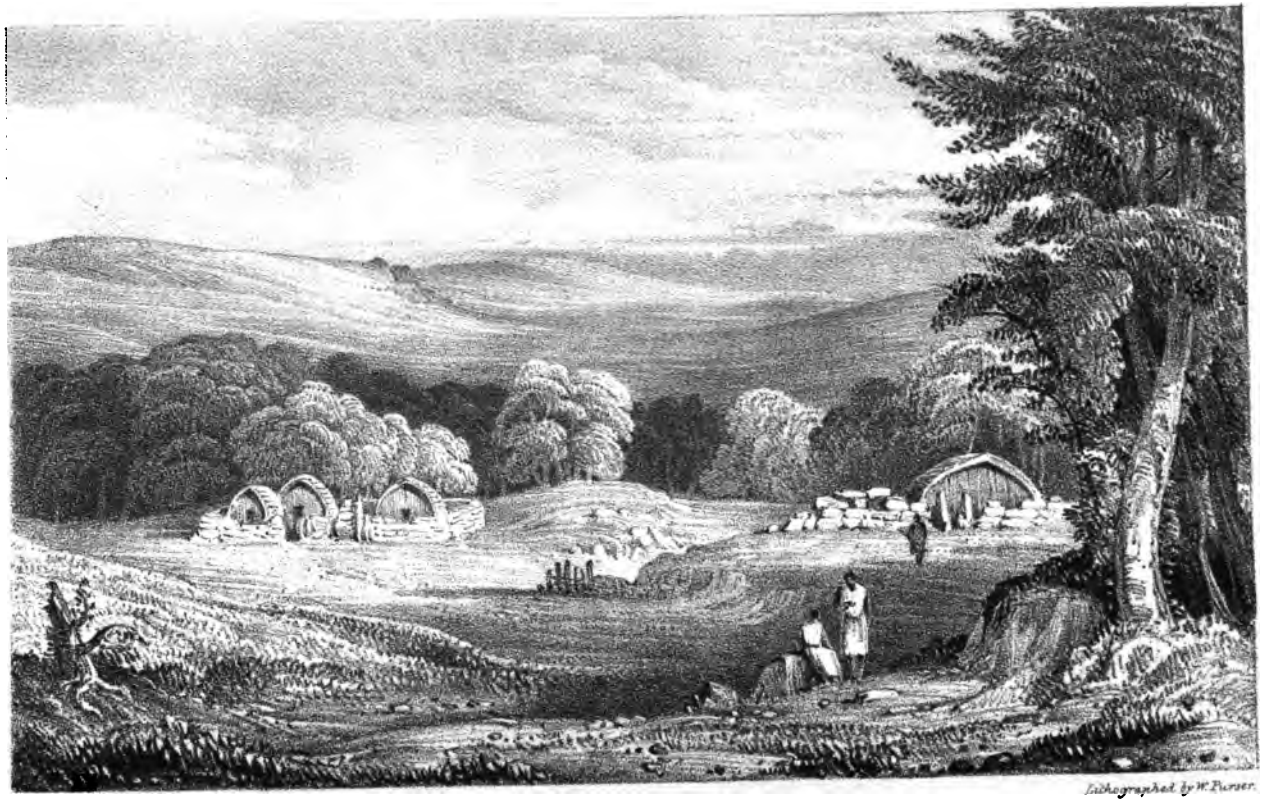
(Signed) J. M. CALCUTTA.

Some of my Indian readers may observe, that what was easy to the Bishop, aided by the public authorities, in his transit to the Hills,

The bazaar near the lake is abundantly supplied; and those extravagant demands for house-rent, which were once so appalling to the new comer at Oatacamund, have ceased, and the supply of houses and quarters has been made nearly equal to the demand.

At Kotagherry also, an arrangement has been made by the late governor for the public convenience, which secures quarters at Dimhutty, for those who stand most in need of them, free of expence; and this removes every objection which the want of funds might have opposed to an invalid's residence on the Hills. The regulations under which accommodation in the bungalow at Dimhutty is to be allowed, will be explained by Major Crewe, the officer commanding on the Hills, to any person who may apply to him; and there is now no more difficulty in travelling through the country by Coonoor to Kotagherry or Oatacamund, than there is in going from Madras to Pondicherry in the dry season.

The discovery, as it may be called, of the Neilgherry Hills, is one of the remarkable cir-



Drawn by H. Jarvis.

Lithographed by W. Purser.

A TODA VILLAGE.

Published by Smith Elder & Co Cornhill

cumstances connected with them; and adds to those instances of apathy and ignorance of the resources of India, noticed by the late Bishop of Calcutta, in one of his letters.

From the year 1799 up to 1819, these mountains were in the daily view of all the authorities from the plains of the Coimbatoor province, and a revenue was collected from them for the Company by a renter (a Chitty) and paid into the Cutchery of the collector of that province. But of the country nothing was then known.

After twenty years' possession by the Company, two young civilians, Messrs. Whish and Kindersley, were induced, in consequence of the maltreatment of some Ryots in the low country, by a Polygar, who fled up the pass of Danaynkeucottah, to follow his track; and not being encumbered with him as a prisoner, they afterwards proceeded to reconnoitre a little of the interior of the hills, as they had for some time before intended. Their first halt was at a village called Dynaud, about nine miles to the eastward of Kotagherry near Rungasamy Peak, (the most sacred mountain on the Neilgherries), where they found the man they were in search

of, in a hut. He was exceedingly polite in offering refreshments to the gentlemen, and pretending to go for some milk, took the opportunity of making good his retreat!

They then proceeded across the hills, and descended by the Keloor Pass. But they had seen and felt quite enough to excite their own curiosity and that of the collector, Mr. Sullivan, who, establishing his general residence there, continued to live in this delightful climate with his family, in health and comfort, for the greatest part of the succeeding ten years.

It appears from Mr. Sullivan's letter in the Appendix, that he did every thing in his power to attract the attention of the governors, who preceded Mr. Lushington, to the full use of the hills for the benefit of the public, but that he could not succeed. Since Mr. Lushington's accession, the local government have given a zealous and uniform encouragement to every useful suggestion, and under his unceasing influence and exertion the settlement has attained its present advanced state.

When the increasing visits of military officers to the hills, in search of lost health, rendered

the appointment of a commanding officer necessary to keep order, and to assist in supplying their wants, Major Kelso was selected, and from that time the enjoyment of this place has been gradually extending, and will soon, it is to be hoped, be within reach of all classes of Europeans in every settlement of India, who require the benefit of this marvellous change.

The passes are every day becoming more easy to every description of supplies, and of travellers.

At the conclusion of these pages, I shall add such information as will explain the improved state of the several routes up to September 1832, and some observations which I trust may be found worthy of public attention.

The ascent to the hills from the river Bhavany, by the Coonoor Pass, presents a scene of magnificence and beauty, which must be seen, to be understood. On the left hand side of the Pass is a stupendous chasm bounded by the Oolacul range of hills, and from the base to the summit is six thousand feet high. In viewing this hill from the top of Dodabetta, it is seen to plunge directly into the low country, and

this observation first pointed out to Mr. Lushington the practicability of ascending by this direct route. This suggestion having been ascertained, by Majors Kelso and Cadogan, and by Lieut. Le-Hardie, to be correct, the Pass was commenced by Major C., and has been since completed by the strenuous exertions of the Madras pioneers under Captains Eastment and Murray.

In every part of the Coonoor Pass, where the rock is not perpendicular and scarped, it is covered with trees, except some small places that have been cleared by the Curumbers,* on the side where the elephants cannot reach them, and where they have sown small grain resembling the millet. On the right hand side a discovery has been recently made, by that intelligent officer, Lieut. Le-Hardie, of a fine forest of teak, which will greatly contribute to the saving of expence in building on the hills, as also to the general comfort of the inhabitants. A cataract rolling down in the centre of the chasm completes the grandeur of the scene, conveying that unfailing delight which the fall

* A diminutive race of men, inhabiting the neighbouring jungles.

of rushing waters affords in every part of the world, and to no persons more strongly so, than those who have been long dried up in the plains of the Carnatic, or jaundiced in the marshes of Calcutta or Bombay.

From the banks of the Bhavany near the Mateepollium bungalow, the ground is nearly level for four miles and a half to the foot of the mountains, and the valley stretching on the right hand towards Srimogay, and on the left to Nellumboor and Bolumputty, has been the hunting ground for the elephants.

Although much has been done to decrease the number of these destructive animals, they still occasionally infest the paths to the foot of the Pass, and not long ago an officer was compelled to fly as fast as his horse could carry him, with his horse-keeper and grass-cutter clinging to his tail, from the assault of a single elephant, who, having been driven from his herd, was ready for any act of fury or destruction. But the Collector, who has a large establishment of Shikaries (huntsmen), will take care to keep this tract clear in future, especially at the season when the elephants come down, and the road

is so level and good, that a good hard gallop is a fit prelude to the slower pace, at which the pass must be ascended.

As the mode practised in taking the elephant in Coimbatoor differs from that in use in Ceylon, and may afford gratification to many of my sporting friends, I shall give them a description of it in the following chapter.

CHAPTER III.

"Meanwhile in troops,
"The busy hunter-train mark out the ground,
"A wide circumference; full many a league
"In compass round; woods, rivers, hills and plains,
"Large provinces; enough to gratify
"Ambition's highest aim, could reason bound
"Man's erring will."

SOMERVILLE.

NUMEROUS herds of elephants traverse the jungles at the base of the Neilgherries; and though an elephant-hunt cannot be attended without great risk of fever, it has nevertheless been sometimes witnessed by parties from the Hills, who have for the most part taken the precaution of sleeping at some little distance from the scene of action, where the country is more open than at the Coopum, (an enclosure into which the elephants are driven,) which is generally in the thickest part of the jungle.

It is now about seven years since the govern-

ment, on the representation of the collector of Coimbatoor, furnished him with a party of elephant-hunters from Chittagong, and the practice of these people has, with a little alteration, been acted upon with great success to the present time, though the original hunters returned to their native country after the first year.

As soon as the elephants make their appearance from the Malabar side, intelligence is conveyed to the Darogah (the chief hunter) by the Mulsas, who are a diminutive wild race of men living entirely in the jungles, and particularly clever in tracing these animals in their route, which is invariably along the base of the Hills to Mysore. The herd is then surrounded by about three hundred of the Ryots, care being taken to leave the animals an abundant supply of water, without which, it is impossible to prevent their breaking through the lines. About two hundred tank-diggers are then employed in making the Coopum, which consists of a circular ditch of one hundred yards diameter, eight feet wide, and nine deep; the entrance to it is the most beaten track to be found in the thickest part of the jungle. To guide the animals to

this, a strong line of hedges is made, to the extent of about three hundred yards in length, on each side, diverging from the entrance; this is called the Kye-coopum.

When all is completed, in doing which a month or more is consumed, the Polygar chiefs of the district, who are bound to assist on these occasions, are called in, accompanied by their followers, each of whom is provided with a matchlock. By these people, who are again assisted by others armed with an inferior kind of sky-rocket, the elephants are with little difficulty driven into the trap prepared for them; when two bon-fires being lighted at the entrance, the tank-diggers are enabled to complete the circle around them, unmolested.

After the elephants have been left without nourishment for two or three days, a part of the ditch is filled up, and eight or nine tame elephants are taken in, for the purpose of keeping off the most refractory of the wild herd, whilst the Mahouts and Kutmahouts (elephant-keepers) are employed in tying their legs together, and then securing them with a strong cable-like rope to a tree of sufficient strength to hold them. Of

these latter there is always an abundance in the spot chosen for the Coopum.

When the elephants have trampled down the under-wood, which is soon accomplished, however thick and high originally, the appearance bears that of a mass of mud with the large trees standing in it, owing to the restless circles which the wild elephants are constantly making in it, until they are secured.

After the whole have been bound, and sometimes as they are successively secured, the wild elephants are dragged out singly, between two tame ones. Then, being fastened to some convenient trees, where the jungles are free from fever, they remain there with their attendants who sing to them, and conciliate and caress them for a week. After this they proceed to Coimbatoor, where they remain till the sores, caused in their legs by the cords tied round them, are healed, and they are then sold by public auction for the benefit of the Company. One of the number caught last June was purchased at the sale in August, and is now a passenger in the ship where I am writing these pages, quite healthy and tractable.

The mode of taking the elephant in the neighbouring district of Madura is very different: there the herds are driven to the top of a natural pass (named Cumbum), near the head of the Dindigul valley, whence they have a view of the cultivation of the low country, and having been harassed in the jungles by fires and hunger, and being driven by the hunters in their rear, they at length rush through an opening between two rocks, so narrow as to admit but of one elephant at a time. The descent being thence rapid, they rush down and fall into pits prepared for their reception, about ten feet square and ten deep. The ground here is chequered like a chess-board, if I may use the expression, with these pits, with a steep mountain on either side, and a ditch in the front. The pits being covered loosely with straw, several of the elephants fall into them at the first rush, when the rest, making a precipitate retreat, occupy the ground between the entrance and lines of pits. Here they are shot by the sportsmen posted on each side.

On one occasion sixty-three elephants were in this manner destroyed by " Mantons and

Purdeys," in about four hours; and at another time in Coimbatoor, before the art of taking them was so well understood, one sportsman, an acquaintance of mine, *bagged* twenty-six elephants in the course of the day. But on both occasions, the sportsmen knew their work better than the "*murderers of Chuny in Exeter Change.*" A single small ball in the front of the head, in the hollow just above the insertion of the proboscis, or (should the animal present his side) in either temple, conveys immediate death to the largest of the tribe.

The rush of the elephants towards the pits is a grand spectacle; the forest crashes and seems alive with them, and their trumpeting, when they discover the pits, is a terrific, but to the sportsman, not an unpleasing sound. Accidents sometimes, but not often, occur. One of the most fearful instances remembered, was the falling of Capt. B. into one of the pits, at a time when the herd was momentarily expected; but a kind Providence saved this gallant officer, and restored him to his party, amidst cheers of joy and congratulation!

To the description of the pass and valley of

Coonoor, it only remains for me to add that the traveller will now find at the top an excellent bungalow, with glass windows and fire-places, and enclosed stables: the first, probably, he may have seen since he left his paternal hearth, and began his march of life upon the waves.

To a person exhausted with the heat of the plains, the change that he feels and sees in the atmosphere, and in the magnificent scenes around him, is indeed heart-cheering; and if there be any poetry in his soul, he can deliver his feelings only in verse, and in none more appropriate than in that prayer of pious but grateful awe, with which our first parents duly paid their morning orisons—

> "These are thy glorious works, — Parent of good
> "Almighty, thine this universal frame:
> "Thus wond'rous fair — thyself how wond'rous, then
> "Unspeakable; who sit'st above these Heavens
> "To us invisible or dimly seen
> "In these thy lowest works — yet these declare
> "Thy goodness beyond thought and power divine."

From Coonoor to Oatacamund, the climate becomes cooler every mile. In the valley of Katey may be seen the beginning of English husbandry, under the care and well-known skill of Major Crewe; Southdown sheep grazing,

English cattle in perfect health, and crops of potatoes that would be prized even in the "Land of Murphies." When the bluff rock of Katey is passed, and the ascent gained towards Elk Hill, the view is quite exquisite. The ride round Elk Hill, from the South-downs, up to Dodabetta is, I believe, as varied and magnificent, and what in India is so extremely rare, as enjoyable at all hours of the day, as any in the wide world. Mountains, forests, cataracts, verdant plains, azure skies, the carolling of the lark, the frequent whistle of the black-bird, the chattering of the monkies in the woods, and the occasional lowing of the stag, walking in his majesty upon the opposite mountain-top, or Bruin ploughing up the side for wild potatoes, complete the delight of this delicious ride.

But amongst other joys, should be mentioned the vigorous appetite and spirits, which the change creates; and happy the man, who can get his legs under a good table for the first fortnight, at least. In that time his own servants come up, and become a little used to the climate and habits of the place, and the want of this has been often felt by new-comers. On

Drawn by H. Jerris

Lithographed by W. Parrott

VIEW AT OATACAMUND.

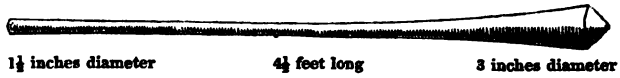
Published by Smith Elder & Co Cornhill.

this account encouragement has been given by the government to the establishment of a good hotel; and, as a building highly suitable for the purpose has been constructed by Sir William Rumbold, to whom the settlement on the Hills is greatly indebted, I trust soon to hear that my brother officers, and the rest of the community at large, have the benefit of an hotel or club-house, as well managed as that of Madras; and no higher praise need be coveted by any club.

There is one caution which I would give to all new-comers on the Hills, and especially to invalids, who should observe it with the utmost care—Not to go out at night. This is essential to their own recovery, as well as an act of necessary consideration and humanity towards their servants. When their pores and half-clothed bodies are exposed to the cold after the sun is down, they always become discontented and often very sick. But if well clothed and kept in the house, warm at night, they enjoy the place and are in no hurry to leave it; especially if they receive, as they ought, some little increase of pay, as a boon to their absent families. I have invariably found, that an act

of justice of this kind to the native servants, is amply repaid in comfort to their masters.

There is hardly a mountain or a valley in the whole region of the Neilgherries in which the sportsman may not expect to find some sort of game—from the tiger, the monarch of the Indian woods, down to the jungle sheep and timid hare; which latter are both excellent eating on the Hills. But the tiger is not so frequent or so ferocious as to create any apprehensions that embitter the enjoyment of the shooting on foot in the forests. His food of bullocks, elk, and buffaloes is so abundant and easily obtained, that he very rarely displays a passion for human flesh. Probably, the perfect state of concord which has so long existed between these terrific animals and the native population, who have no arms for their destruction, (their best instrument being a heavy bit of wood, as here



represented) together with the absence of all intense heat of the sun, concur in rendering them less irritable and savage than the tiger of the plain. Of the fact, however, there can be no

doubt. Hence a party of natives have been seen sitting in perfect confidence when a tiger has gone past them, showing no other symptoms of fear, than a little hallooing, and coolly making a salaam as he passed. In the same spirit, the women of the village have assembled when a tiger has been killed, and throwing themselves upon their knees before him, touched his bristles with their foreheads, in token of their respect and amity.

But the accuracy with which the Hill inhabitants mark down the haunts of every species of game, is worthy of notice. Frequently has it happened that they have come into Oatacamund, with intelligence of a bear, or two bears, and sundry elks and hogs; and I am told that they have never failed, after being fully satisfied of a reward, if their information proved correct. The face of the country is decidedly favorable for the purpose. Every where there are commanding hills; and as the game feed in the valleys, they are discovered at the dawn of the day, and watched from different high places, going into the wood or ravine, where they generally remain till the evening. The

habit which the people constantly practise of hallooing to each other from hill to hill in their ordinary concerns, as mentioned by Captain Harkness, is also highly favorable to the marking of the wild animals accurately, because they are not alarmed at the bawling going on, although they may be the objects of it. To make assurance doubly sure, the villagers take possession of the surrounding heights, and remain watching, whilst a messenger is sent with the news.

The arrival of such a herald was always a joyful summons; guns, spears, dogs and horses were put in immediate requisition. A considerable number of beaters were at first employed in rousing the game, but the sporting skill and zeal of Major Kelso has provided an agreeable substitute, and good dogs being gradually collected, were found to be better adapted for the purpose. They were bred from a cross of a large foxhound, and a good bull-bitch. To hunt a little, but not to dwell upon the scent, and to hold very hard, are requisites in a Neilgherry dog. They keep the largest game at bay until the sportsmen come up, and with the addi-

tion of a number of excellent Scotch terriers, and some fine pointers, or setters taught to chase, great sport has been obtained, as the best of game kept by a friend of mine would abundantly testify. Frequently it has happened, that when a stag has gone away untouched, or slightly wounded, the hounds have pursued him till he was sufficiently tired to take up his stand in a mountain stream, and then the exertion to reach the scene, required speed as well as bottom in the sportsmen.

Exclusive of the sport, which was generally cheered by a good tiffin, occasionally enlivened by the presence of some who would adorn any assembly in the world, a hunting or shooting party on the Neilgherries derived peculiar attractions, from the extreme beauty and variety of the landscapes. The fresh and purifying air breathing from the mountain tops, through rhododrendron-trees clothed with their gorgeous flowers; the wild cinnamon-tree with its own delicate blossom and fragrance, encircled by the honeysuckle and great dog-rose, relieved by a back-ground of stately ever-greens; whilst the merry black-birds pouring their melodious

notes and making the forest ring with tuneful harmony, made altogether such a scene, as dear Old England can alone surpass. Nor is the chorus the less perfect for an occasional deep note from a fine elk, looking down in seeming defiance from the summit of some neighbouring hill, and majestically descending, with his full antlers and measured step, into a wood on the other side, where some tumbling cataract, or a clear stream running at the bottom of it, affords a good promise of becoming better acquainted with him.

In this manner stags have been shot fourteen hands and an inch in height. The flesh of the body weighing 586 pounds, and the span between the horns, thirty-three inches.

Near the elk, old bruin and cubs, or some hogs, have been occasionally seen grubbing up the wild potatoes, and taking shelter in the same wood. Arrived on the spot, the different sportsmen take their stations along the side and at the bottom of the wood, in the places most likely for the game to break. The dogs being all in hand, are held out of sight and hearing behind the brow of the hill, and when the

sportsmen have taken up their positions, the master of the chase sounds his horn, and every dog rushes into the wood. If it be large — and sometimes they are of two or three miles in extent — nothing is heard for a few minutes but the dog-boys cheering the pack; some hound then strikes upon the scent or catches a view, and then begins the stimulating cry of the dogs, and every sportsman anxiously looks out for elk, bear, or jungle sheep. Those who are getting into the "sere and yellow leaf," and whose limbs are not so pliant with the oil of youth as formerly, are best placed on some neighbouring tree or rock, where the tracks and fresh soil of the elk are to be seen, and where no active efforts need be made. Here they are also less likely to shoot themselves or others. But then there must be no moving, talking, or even whispering. The sight of an unaccustomed object, or even the sudden turning of a bough, will often stop a fine stag that is coming crashing down through the forest, and then perhaps he breaks away on the opposite side, jumping up or down some enormous precipice, where the dogs lose all trace of him. The youth,

who is active and has a good ear to distinguish the distance of the dogs and the line of the chase, who has speed and strength and a steady hand, notwithstanding the exertion of running, will enjoy this noble sport in its finest form, by following the hounds on the outside of the wood, as they descend in the inside.

It is by the joint skill and strength of the old and the young, that so much sport is obtained; and how much it is enjoyed is best attested, by the fact, that the bipeds are always ready to take the field again, before the dogs have sufficiently recovered their fatigues. To them it is often a day of great exertion, sometimes of severe suffering, and occasionally of destruction.

If elk only are found, the pack comes home safe, and sometimes not much exhausted; but if bear or hog form a part of the day's sport, some of the dogs will be wounded, and all of them considerably fagged. Occasionally a tiger commits ravages and escapes unseen. One of the very best dogs of the pack was in this way destroyed by a single pat, which doubled his head back upon his shoulders, and breaking his neck killed him in a moment. At another time,

three fine foxhounds, who gallantly persevered in attacking a tiger, were all destroyed.

But after the dogs have been accustomed to hunt in the Neilgherries, they understand how unequal they are to the tiger; and though the extraordinary piercing cry of the dog attests the presence of the animal, in a manner not to be mistaken, he will sneak off, if not vigorously opposed by the sportsman in his progress. When roused by the noise in the wood, or by the dogs going near his lair, it often happens that he is sleepy and full of food. Their hours of eating are in the night, and nothing can be more different in their nature, than both the tiger and the lion, in their states of hunger and fullness. Ferocious as they are when feeding or wanting food, they are comparatively innocent and harmless when they have dined, and like Falstaff's prince, may be then approached with great confidence and safety.

There was one remarkable instance of an enormous tiger killed in the Neilgherries, who, after having sprung upon a bullock during the night, and feasting upon him, was in the dawn of the morning seen to enter a small but

deep wooded ravine not two hundred yards long and not fifty broad. A party of sportsmen being collected to kill him, the ravine was drawn by firing blank cartridge down each side, and sounding horns of every description. As there was no appearance of the tiger, it was concluded he had stolen off, and the party were going away, but one of the attendants happening to peep into the ravine where he could see some distance into it, beheld the beast screwed into the smallest compass lying directly underneath the bank where he stood, three muskets were then fired but missed him, and the party collected for the purpose of destroying him. It was soon found he had shifted his berth, and gone to the other side, and the first indication he gave of his actual presence was, by a tremendous roar within ten feet of the place where several persons were standing immediately over him, but he made no effort to spring upon them. It was true that he had been wounded some time before, by a Shikaree, employed by the Burghers to destroy him after he had become troublesome to their herds at Nunjenaud; but his inactivity was owing chiefly to his

gorged state; it took nearly four hours of shouting and noise, together with the aid of some dogs to rouse him from the inaccessible parts of the ravine, so as to bring him within sight and shot; when dead, it was found that ten bullets had pierced him.

It is far, however, from my intention to encourage the sportsman on the Neilgherries, to pursue tiger-shooting as a matter of amusement; but I hope there will be always a sufficient number of steady shots to prevent their accumulating, if the government do not employ fit Shikaries for this purpose, who, now that there is no difficulty in ascending the Hills, might come up with greater readiness from the low countries.

However these animals should not be allowed to enjoy the comfort of abundant food, water and shelter undisturbed by the sportsman; and I have no doubt but that my friend and brother officer, the sporting laird of S. has, ere this meets his eye, tried with his wonted coolness, the effect of his excellent rifle upon some of them. But I am given to understand, from an experienced shot, that for Neilgherry shooting,

there is nothing better, or so good even, as a double Manton or Purdey of large bore. When more than one elk breaks cover at the same time, and even when there is only one, the right and left-hand barrels are both useful. Neither the elk, nor Bruin, and still less the jungle sheep give any spare time for reloading. Their rapid rush and the unequal surface of the country, often hides them, notwithstanding their size, before a good aim can be taken.

In the low land the nature of the tiger is very different from those on the Hills. Water, food, and shelter can seldom be obtained but at immense distances, and the tigress as well as the tiger is compelled to traverse many miles before their natural appetites are appeased.

It is the same with the lion of Afric's burning shores; in their natural condition they are compelled to roam over sandy deserts and forests unfrequented by man, for water and food, and their unsettled life precludes any considerable increase. But, when brought to the Cape and kept in confinement, with plenty of food and water, their increase is prodigious. There were lately purchased, at Mons. Villet's in Cape

Town, a lion and lioness stuffed, who were the parents of forty cubs in the course of four years, and afterwards of twenty, making together sixty from one pair. The progeny are scattered over different parts of the world; some were sent to Paris, some to Vienna, some are in Calcutta, and two remain at the Cape. When the lion died, he was incautiously skinned near the den whence the lioness could see him, and her afflicted looks and moaning satisfied the owner that her death, which took place a month afterwards, was owing to her grief for his loss, as stated in the following certificate given when they were purchased from him:

"This lion was fifteen years old, and died about two years since of the liver complaint.

"The lioness died about six weeks afterwards of grief. I had the lioness about fifteen years, and in that period she had sixty cubs.

"She had in the first four years five cubs in a litter, and twice each year. After the fifth year, she had only one litter a year. The names given them were Prince and Princess."

(Signed) "L. W. Villet."

"Cape Town, 8th Jan. 1833."

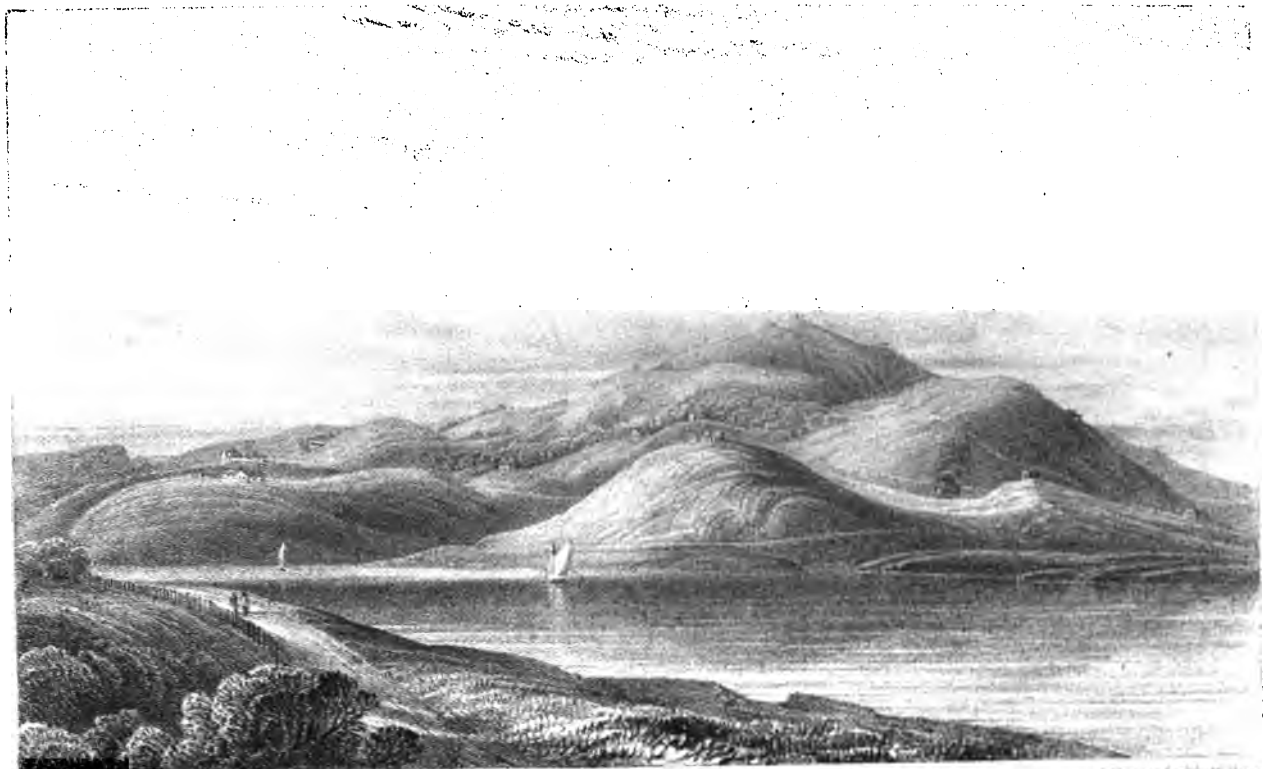
CHAPTER IV.

No lake so gentle, and no spring so clear,
No hill so blue, no woods so green appear,
All nature's bounties seem united here
To give man health throughout the circling year.

" But the sound of the church-going bell,
" These vallies and hills never heard,
" Never sighed at the sound of a knell,
" Or smiled when a sabbath appeared."

COWPER.

THE reader who is inclined to be critical may think that too much has been said of " the Zephyr which fondly sues the mountain's breast," upon the Neilgherries; but if he has been long a sojourner on Choultry Plain, and still remembers those days in his native land which " sent into the heart a summer feeling," let him go, before it be too late, to the Neilgherry Hills, " for one day of existence more, and joy." Although Sir Thos. Munro well said, " there appeared to be two suns shining instead of one," such seems the



Drawn by N. Ferris.

LAKE AT CATSKILL.

Published by Smith, Elder & Cornhill

splendid light which is often shed upon the mountains when relieved by the dark shadows of the forests of ever-green trees, yet there is no heat to injure, especially if a small umbrella be used. The manner in which even this thin covering throws all feelings of the sun's rays from the person, is as extraordinary as it is agreeable.

But it appears that not the air alone is worthy of homage on the Hills. The water is thought by the best judges to be as pure as any in the world, and as a proof of it, I transcribe the following extract of Mr. Bannister's analysis of it.

Madras, Jan. 1*st*, 1831.

My dear Sir,

I have now the pleasure to state, for the information of the Right Hon. the Governor, that I yesterday finished my examinations of the two bottles of water that were transmitted from the Neilgherry Hills,

and I have been surprised to find no trace whatever of any saline, earthy, or metallic substance in either of them.

I think I understood from the Governor that he had requested Dr. Mack to test the water from the spring near the Avalanche, and that he supposed that it contained iron. My attention was therefore particularly directed to this point; but neither prussiate of potash, nor the succinate of ammonia, though the most delicate tests we have for detecting that metal, even when applied with all the necessary precautions, gave the slightest indication of its existence.

I look upon the result of this enquiry as very extraordinary. I never remember to have read of spring water containing no extraneous matter. Indeed I have a standard chemical work now before me, in which the reverse is asserted. It is my intention therefore to obtain all the information I can on this subject, and to afterwards publish the fact in some English journal as one of great curiosity.

It may be proper for me perhaps to state what are the tests I have employed in the examination of these waters: to avoid detail I need

only premise, that in order to render some of them of certain effect, a few precautions are necessary; all of which I have of course duly attended to.

The clear water only was taken for examination, consequently only those substances which were in a state of solution would be discovered.

The re-agents which I have employed are the following;

Nitrate of Silver.
Prussiate of Potash.
Barytes.
Hydro Sulphurate of Ammonia.
Oxalate of Ammonia.
Tincture of Litmus.
Succinate of Ammonia.
Nitrate of Barytes.
Phosphate of Soda.
Alcoholic Solution of Soap.
Sulphuric Acid.

Neither of the waters sent, either upon or after testing, were in the least degree changed by the addition of any of the above tests. The effect was very different with the Madras town

wells water, from which a precipitate was occasioned by six, out of the eleven tests.

If I had the means I would evaporate a considerable quantity of these waters in a proper manner, and then examine the remainder. By this means quantities of extraneous bodies, which may be too inconsiderable to be detected by reagents in the ordinary way, might be discovered.

I remain, My dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

W. BANNISTER.

To J. LUSHINGTON, *Esq.*

&c. &c.

I have noticed in a preceding page, that the difficulties which induced the Bishop of Calcutta to decline a visit to the Neilgherries on his way to Bombay, for his own gratification, yielded to his sense of duty when he found that a Christian Church awaited his consecration. With what alacrity he entered upon this holy office, his own letters are the best proof, and the

ceremony was performed under circumstances that will make the first day of offering up supplications and thanks in a Protestant Temple amidst these mountains, a day much to be remembered.—I have the satisfaction of giving to the reader an account of the ceremony as written by the late Mr. James Lushington; and some passages from the sermon preached by the Bishop on that occasion.

"On the 5th of December 1830, the church, of which the foundations were laid last year at Oatacamund by the Governor, was consecrated by the Bishop of Calcutta.

"The day was peculiarly propitious to the event. Though the sun shone in unclouded splendour, the thermometer was only at 60°; and the atmosphere breathed that soft freshness, which gives to the climate and the scenery of the Neilgherries, such peculiar enjoyment, continually presenting the image of that scene so beautifully described by the poet, where nature wantoned in her prime:

'Non alios primâ crescentis origine mundi
Illuxisse dies, aliumve habuisse terrorem
Crediderim; ver illud erat, ver magnus agebat
Orbis, et hibernis parcebant flatibus Euri.'

"The site chosen for the church is one of great convenience and beauty, centrical and easily accessible, by the fine road formed by the Pioneers under Major Cadogan. It stands on the base of one of those verdant slopes which constitute the charm of Neilgherry scenery, yet high enough to command a perfect view of mountains and woods, which, bounding the happy valley of Oatacamund to the east and south, and extending in imposing magnificence in a south-west direction, terminate with a view of the cleft-side of Avalanche Hill, and the distant summit of Moorkooty's towering peak.

"The style of the edifice being plain gothic, harmonizes well with the natural scenery around it, and notwithstanding all the difficulties which attend the erection of buildings, intended to be lasting, on the Neilgherries, I have no fears for the duration of this church. The foundations have been so deeply laid, the materials of the superstructure have had so much time to settle and harden, and the superstructure has been so well arranged by the engineer, Capt. Underwood, that we may expect it will last for ages, a monument to the Majesty

of God, as well when he sits pavilioned in clouds, rolling the thunders, and flashing the lightnings of mount Sinai, as when he descends in the glory of his light, and with healing on his wings, upon the holy hill of Sion. Here the true worshipper of nature's God, who has with Lord Bacon 'sought him in the courts, the fields and gardens,' will have an opportunity of 'finding him in his temple,' and those who have been less mindful of their Creator in the days of their youth, will be here awakened by a sense of gratitude for renovated health, to a spirit of devotion and piety, to the great Giver of this and every other blessing.

"After the usual ceremony of consecration, the Bishop dedicated the church to Saint Stephan, and preached an admirable sermon from a most appropriate text, Isaiah xxxv. 1.—'The wilderness and the solitary place shall be glad for them, and the desert shall rejoice and blossom as the rose.'

"After observing in the introduction upon the prophet's usual custom of representing spiritual blessings by natural emblems, the Bishop thus proceeded: —.

" 'Whilst we see the natural wilderness blooming around us; the valleys, till lately abandoned to solitude and desolation, teeming now with life, and in certain progress towards that time when they shall stand so thick with corn, that they shall laugh and sing: when we feel a delight in the changes thus taking place around us, and rejoice that the wilderness is becoming a fruitful field, let us not fail to turn our thoughts to that cheerless *moral* desert, where no salutary plant takes root, no verdure quickens, where ignorance the most appalling, prejudices the most deadly, superstitions the foulest and most degrading, hold the spirits of millions in dreadful subjection, withering all that would be for good, fostering into pernicious luxuriance all that is evil. Men suppose that to unfold the truth and to establish the principles of the gospel, is to be considered as exclusively the duty of a certain class of men who have prepared themselves, or been selected for that service, whilst ordinary christians are exempt or precluded from engaging in it. Now the truth really is that in this land of heathen darkness every Christian may be, nay more, if

he live in any way up to his profession, must be a missionary. When our blessed Lord bade his disciples regard themselves as the salt of the earth, the light of the world, a city set upon a hill, was it, can we suppose, to encourage in them any feelings of undue elation and confidence? Must it not rather have been said to bring home to their hearts, a full sense of their responsibility by shewing them what they ought to be, and what was expected from them?

" ' In the same way we would now address all who profess and call themselves Christians, the minutest circumstances of whose conduct are liable to be noted and censured. Let the heathen see us living the life of faith: let them be taught to understand that the principle which animates our social, and guides our political, institutions, is to glorify God by doing good to men, and the preacher's task will be easy. Men will not rest till they understand what that belief is, which issues in such practice. When they have tasted, and delighted in that river which flows by the city of our God, their desire will be to discover the fountains from which it springs.'

" Then in conclusion he observed; ' It is no light thing that we are here gathered together in the sight of God, and in his name have consecrated this edifice, which the wise foresight of our rulers has munificently provided for us. It is no light thing that we are sharers in this great privilege, and that by our voices, supplications and giving of thanks have been offered up for the first time amidst these mountains according to the Apostle's injunction.

" ' To those amongst us who know what spiritual experience is, it will be a day much to be remembered; and even the light-minded and careless, those who have never thought at all, and have never thought to any purpose on the subject of their eternal interest, cannot be wholly unimpressed.

" ' All external circumstances concur to force upon your minds lessons of awful import. When you look up to the munificence of nature as it is spread around you in such fair profusion, can you refuse to lift up your thoughts to the God of nature, the High and Holy One that inhabiteth eternity? or will you refuse to receive the Revelation which he has made of

himself in the person of the Saviour, who left the right hand of the Majesty on High, and came in the likeness of man, that he might reconcile you to himself by his blood?'"

Since the consecration, bells have been added to the church, and the congregation winding their way at their ease in the middle of the day, some on foot, others in carriages and some on horses, in the 11th degree of the torrid zone, was a heart-cheering sight amidst mountains and valleys which never before "smiled when a sabbath appeared."

The interior decoration of the church is in harmony with the exterior, and the painted glass windows, backed by the green mountain side, shed upon the altar that cheerful light which best illustrates the true character of the religion it represents.

Not far distant from the church is a noble building erected under the superintendence of Capt. J. Underwood for a school, partly by subscription, but chiefly out of the funds of the Missionary Society. But to the labors of the highly-gifted and excellent Archdeacon of Madras, the Rev. Thomas Robinson, the parent

institution is largely indebted, for the aid and encouragement that has been obtained for this establishment; and it is upon so large a scale as to be capable of affording accommodation to numerous scholars. The minister, Mr. Morewood, who has charge of the school, has been very happily selected, and he has besides well performed the church duty since the death of the Rev. Mr. Sawyer, who, upon the recommendation of the Bishop, was first appointed to this office.

The melancholy circumstances which led to his death, should be a warning to those, who however strong, (and there were few persons more so than this excellent man,) from making incautious tours from the Hills into the low country. An illness contracted in the heat of Travancore produced an organic complaint, to which an immediate return to the Hills was peculiarly unfavourable, for the pores being obstructed by the cold, and the digestive powers being called into greater action, increased the inflammation, which had already begun, and in a few days Mr. S. sunk under its violence. Having contracted the disease, it had been better if he

had remained in the low country, or had gone to sea until it had subsided; and then the bracing air and purifying breeze of the mountains would have speedily restored his health and strength.

Other instances have obviously led to the same conclusion, and taught us, that when *organic* complaints and inflammatory symptoms are present, the invalid ought not to be sent to the Neilgherries, unless he can go by a sea-voyage; which is the surest remedy.

But a much wiser course would be for him to go at once to the Cape of Good Hope, before nature be exhausted, or the disease deeply seated. I can assure the Indian invalid, from recent experience, that that fine climate and colony abounds in every convenience and comfort, and will if any means can, short of a voyage to Europe, "restore eluding health," and again light his fading eye. Besides a profusion of European vegetables, fruits and excellent food, the carriages and horses are of the best description, and good gigs and chariots, and even a coach-and-four may be hired with dri-

vers that are qualified by art to be enrolled in the Four-in-hand Club of London.

I have stated in a former page my intention to offer some further observations on the actual state of the two principal Passes, and I will now do so.

In June last, the inhabitants of the low countries brought fish and other supplies up the Khoondah Pass to the pioneers; and as this invaluable corps was to resume its labors in November, the road is no doubt finished and the invalid from Bombay, or Calcutta, or Madras, if landed at Calicut, will experience no inconvenience in reaching Oatacamund. A good bungalow has been erected half-way between the top of the pass and Oatacamund, near the Avalanche Hill, amidst some of the most beautiful scenery on the Hills, and here two or three families may remain and recruit themselves at their ease, with abundant supplies of every kind procurable from Oatacamund. But from the moment the summit is reached, the climate is perfect, except during the falling of the monsoon. This begins early in the middle of June,

and ends in September, and the Khoondahs would not then be habitable from the violence of the rains; nor can ships then safely approach the Malabar coast.

When the rains have subsided, the western breeze comes up from the sea, breathing health and fragrance as it passes up the Ghaut; and it is a remarkable circumstance that, during the months in which the pioneers were working on it, from December to the end of May, there was no fever or sickness of any kind amongst them. The order published by the Governor, after his inspecting of the Ghaut in June last, describes so particularly its position and actual state, as to render any further observation unnecessary.

The Coonoor Pass on the opposite side, is now nearly completed, and in a short time these mountains will be equally accessible from the eastern and western coasts. The only precaution that will then be necessary will be, to restrain those who have important duties to perform elsewhere, and are in a state of health to perform them, from staying too long on the Hills, and thus depriving those of their fellow-servants

and comrades, whose health has given way, from flying to them for relief before the diseases of India, liver and dysentery, have made a fatal progress.—The regulations that may be required for the attainment of the purpose, will be of course established and carried into execution by the local government.

With this precaution, the discovery and settlement of the Neilgherries will be an unqualified good to the European and East-India communities of every presidency; and it will be for the government at home to determine *in what degree it shall be extended to the British troops.* I am sure that no man can hear of, or look at the mournful sufferings and returns of two of his Majesty's noble regiments (the 45th and 54th) during the last year, without compassion for the officers and men; nor without lamenting that there had not been barracks, where one, at least, of these suffering regiments might have gained health and strength upon the Neilgherries, instead of being wasted, or as Dr. Baikie well expresses in his reports, "decimated," aye, more than decimated, by disease on the plains below.

For every military purpose of keeping the country in subjection, there is no position, I should imagine, more favorable, now that the access to the eastern and western coasts have been rendered easy, even to loaded bullocks and bandies. I trust therefore that the time has now arrived, when the authorities at home may feel it expedient to provide for the preservation and enjoyment of the health of some of his Majesty's regiments in this, the fairest portion of the British empire in India. Nothing would give me greater satisfaction than to hear that the "Old Wiltshire Springers," the happy regiment to which I belong, but which I fear, disease contracted in the plains of India will prevent me ever again joining, had been ordered to the Neilgherries.

A mistaken notion has prevailed with some persons, that the climate of these Hills does not contribute to the permanent re-establishment of health. This is a delusion contradicted by the evidence of facts in the case of every patient who has been properly sent there. Where there is inflammation of the liver, or serious organic affections, perfect quiet in the low country, or

a voyage to sea, are previously necessary. But for the recovery of lost strength, or the effectual and lasting removal of debility, from whatever cause arising, and for the continued preservation of health, there is no place in India, say all those who have had any experience of the Neilgherries, that can be compared with them, and perhaps, no part of the world, for the *whole period of the year*.

During the only unpleasant time at Oatacamund, from June to August, Kotagherry, Dimhutty, and Coonoor, will prove an agreeable change; and as there are now houses at Dimhutty free of expense, and at Kotagherry upon moderate terms, nothing is wanting but better bazars, for the perfect enjoyment of an invalid, to whom the cold of Oatacamund is not acceptable.

I ought at the same time to observe, that to many persons in health, the intervals between the showers at Oatacamund are most enjoyable, and if a good fire is kept up, of some of the excellent burning wood, which the forests abundantly supply, no inconvenience is felt

from the utmost violence of the western monsoon.

The truth of what I have here stated regarding the climate of the Hills, the reader will find in the Appendix abundantly established by Extracts of Reports and Returns sent in by Dr. Baikie, the Superintending Medical Officer on the Neilgherries; and they amply confirm all the previous Reports.

CONCLUSION.

THE different important events connected with nearly all the following views having been so often and so profusely detailed by various writers; and the country *en route* being so scanty in pictorial interest, except what I have selected, I shall not encumber my readers with thrice-told tales of sieges or of hard-fought-battles, or with a tedious description of the sandy and dried-up plains of the Carnatic, or of the arid and wild appearance of the country between the Pass of Nakanairy and Bangalore, but shall merely add to each drawing a brief explanation of the place it is intended to represent.

I have been induced to add these views, from the idea that there are many persons both in India and at home, who will feel pleasure,

perhaps, in viewing either some or all, as places familiar to them, and probably connected with their early days when every thing

" To them did seem
" Apparelled in celestial light,
" The glory and freshness of a dream."

WORDSWORTH.

POONAMALLEE.

Let me now present my readers to Poonamallee, a Depot for King's Troops, thirteen miles from Madras.

I shall not easily forget my first march in India to this cantonment, with a detachment of my regiment. Just landed from a long voyage, having been cooped up for five months on shipboard, which, as Dr. Johnson says, is worse than a prison, or in other words, a prison with the danger of being drowned, we were marched off at sun-set, on one of those Indian nights when not a leaf is stirring, and nothing is seen abroad but the fire-flies crowding on the bushes, nor heard, save the loud croaking of myriads of frogs, enjoying themselves in the stillness of the night on the borders of some neighbouring tank.

At that time the road being almost knee-deep in sand, and suffering as I did under a considerable degree of thirst, I found this march sufficiently tiresome not to be easily effaced

OFFICERS' QUARTERS, AT POONAMALLEE.

from one's memory, as my first entré on the Eastern stage.

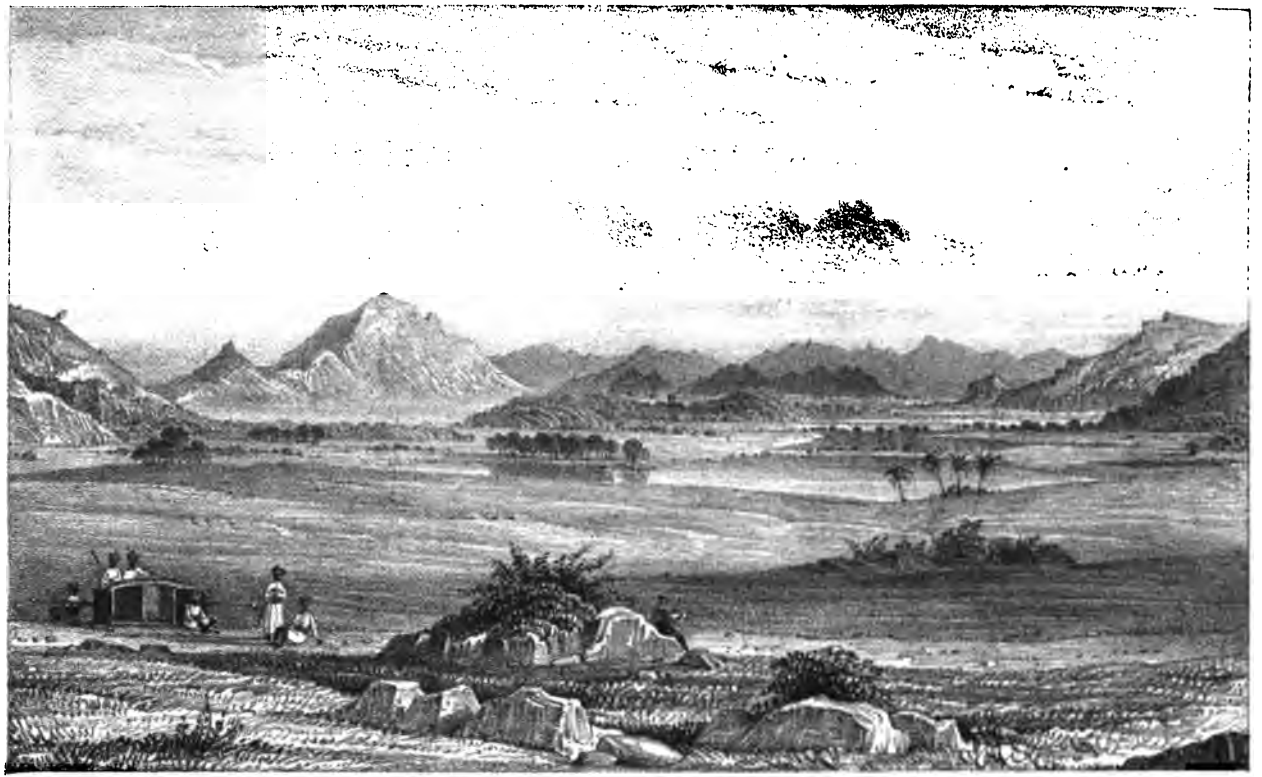
Poonamallee consists of a fort, containing hospitals and government stores ; barracks capable of holding a regiment, with officers' quarters, which will not impress the officer, who takes up his abode there, on his first arrival in India, with any favorable idea of his oriental prospects ; and should he value his comfort, I would advise him to join his corps, especially if at Bangalore, as soon as possible, where he can live and enjoy his " otium cum dignitate" in his own bungalow.

VELLORE.

After leaving Poonamallee, the country is anything but interesting to the man who is an admirer of landscape beauty, till reaching the extensive fertile valley in which Vellore stands, surrounded by an amphitheatre of mountains of every shape.

The annexed view was taken from Cautpaudy, on the new line of road leading from Madras to Bangalore, the route always taken now by military parties, and often preferred by travellers, as the best, and more direct than that which runs through Vellore.

But this town has the attraction of an extensive cantonment, and a fort of neat construction, built by the Mahrattas about 250 years since; its ditch, which is 200 feet wide, and from 15 to 20 feet deep, contains numerous alligators. In 1781 its small garrison, under Col. Lang, made a gallant resistance to Hyder's Mysorean troops, and it has since been rendered memorable in Anglo-Indian history, as the place where Tip-



Drawn by H. Jervis *Aqua by W. Parker*

SITUATION AND DETAILS OF VELLORE.

poo's two sons were confined, and for the mutiny which occurred there before they were removed to Calcutta. The King of Candy, who died last year, was also a prisoner there for many years. Immediately in rear of the town, is a range of acclivitous hills, three of which are surmounted by old stone forts, commanding the place. In the accompanying sketch, the situation of the town is known by the appearance of a line of mist which generally seems in the distance to over-hang it, arising from the river Palaur, which in the dry season presents only a bed of sand, but during the rains, a broad and deep stream rushes along with such velocity, and comes down so suddenly, that not long ago a schoolmaster, who was passing with his scholars, was overtaken in the middle of the river at the moment of its descent, and the whole perished.

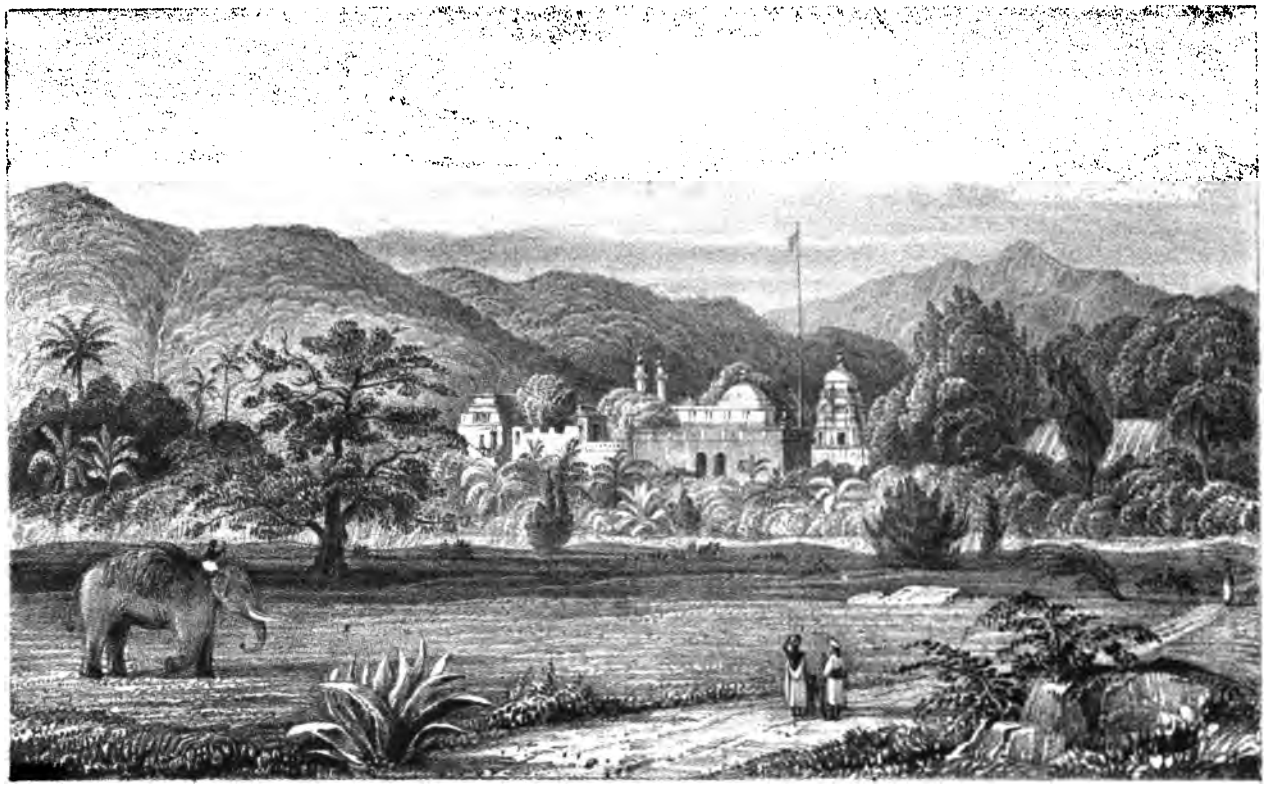
LAULPETT.

From Vellore, or its neighbourhood, the country assumes a more varied appearance, and about five miles from the foot of the Pass of Nakanairy is the village of Laulpett, on the confines of which are some acres of beautiful greensward, shaded by heavy-foliaged tamarind-trees, scattered here and there. Here troops on the march generally encamp, but the traveller can have the comfort of a good bungalow. In the centre of the village is a Mausoleum and Mosque built in neat style by a rich Musselman merchant of Madras, containing the remains of some of his family.

A mile to the north of Laulpet, is Sautghur, a ruined fort surrounded by commanding craggy hills; and immediately beyond the town, is an extensive orange garden, where

——— "The citron and the piercing lime,
"With the deep orange, glowing through the green,
"Their lighter glories blend."

THOMSON.



Drawn by H. Jarvis

MADURA.

Should the traveller remain the day in this town, he will find the shady walks of these gardens a pleasant and cool retreat, having an abundance of delicious oranges to allay the thirst, which is so constant an attendant in tropical climates, in former times quenched by the well known potation Sangoree, and now too often superseded by "brandy-panee." The road from Laulpett passes through a pretty and variegated country, and at the bottom of the Pass a bright and peaceful stream murmurs on its way through banks clothed with woods. The ascent to the summit of the ghaut, though not very romantic, can claim the advantage of some extensive views. The road, from being constantly inspected, is in good order, though steep in some places for carriages and loaded bullocks.

At the very top of the pass, where the traveller enters the Mysore province, is a good bungalow, with an adjoining village. The country is here open and covered for some miles with low jungle. In the neighbourhood the sportsman will meet with partridge, jungle cock, hares, and occasionally cheetas.

After the heat of the Carnatic, the climate

of the Mysore is a most pleasing change, and at night a good blanket is found to be very agreeable.

Traveller! the quicker you now can pass over the ground to Bangalore, the better for yourself, and the less cause you will have to complain of *ennui*. The road lies through a flat country, though sometimes gently undulating: scarcely a tree is there to be seen except in solitary topes widely scattered, or a row of cocoa-nut trees lining the street of some miserable-looking village. Every where are to be seen large masses of bluff rocks, often heaped together in the most extraordinary confusion. The largest place on the road is Colar, where is the Mausoleum of Hyder Ally's mother.

At Bangalore let not the traveller expect to find a public bungalow, or within less than fifteen miles of it on the Madras side, and nine on that of Mysore.

Drawn by H. Salt

Lithographed by W. Prester

ULSOOR TANK, BANGALORE.

Published by Smith Elder & Co. Cornhill London

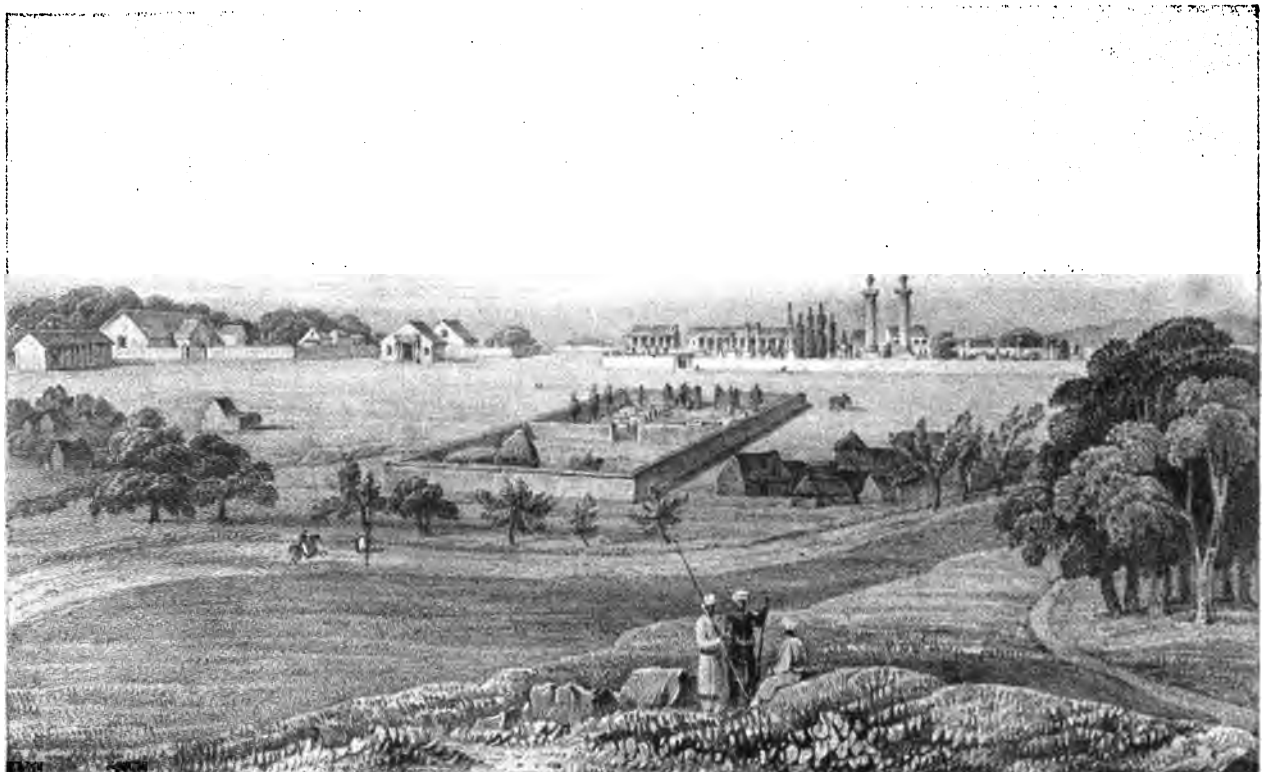
BANGALORE.

The large cantonment of Bangalore occupies the highest ground in the Balaghaut or Table-land of the Southern Peninsula of India, being 3000 feet above the level of the sea. The climate is generally liked, and for a regiment it is a station devoutly to be wished for. But owing to a cool wind that frequently blows, and a clouded sky, the unwary new-comer is too often induced to expose himself: let him, however, take advice ere he feels sundry twinges in his hepatic region, and not allow the treacherous rays of the sun to shine upon him unnecessarily. From October to March the climate is cool, and often extremely cold in the mornings and evenings, and I may safely say that for the whole year, the temperature is pleasant. The only period, when the heat is sometimes found rather oppressive is from March to August, but even then it cannot be compared to that of the low country, the thermometer for the most part

of the year ranging from 74° to 80°, of Fahrenheit. The bungalows in this cantonment are good, and moderate in rent. In the neighbourhood Persian and Arab merchants have established a large depôt for horses of all casts and prices, and a good judge of such cattle may sometimes make very fortunate hits in his purchases.

The garrison of Bangalore consists of a King's Cavalry regiment and another of Infantry, one Native Cavalry, and three Native Infantry, Artillery, &c.

Of the annexed views little need be said, as they will explain themselves. One is taken from the side of the Olsoor Tank, in the vicinity of the native cavalry lines; the most conspicuous objects in it are the barracks of the two King's corps. The sketch of the officers' burial ground, which is too well filled with tombs and monuments to the departed, was taken from the cavalry brigade ground. The two high pillar-like monuments are erected to the memory of some officers of his Majesty's 13th Light Dragoons. This gallant corps, so distinguished at the battle of Albuera, and other



Drawn by H. Jervis. L. Hoy raphed by W. Hervo

OFFICERS' RETREAT, GROUND, R.I. N.A. 1814

places in the Peninsula, has been stationed at Bangalore since the year 1819.

The fort and native town of Bangalore are about two miles from the cantonment, and were taken by storm on the 21st of March, 1791, by the English army under Lord Cornwallis. Hyder Ally's palace in the Fort is still in good repair, and occupied by Major-Gen. Hawker, commanding the division. A large wheel for drawing water is yet existing in an adjoining garden, at which Hyder compelled his prisoners to work, and among them were at one time two officers, afterwards British generals. Bangalore is reckoned a gay station for the military, and can boast of good assembly rooms, with a theatre, where the inhabitants are often entertained by the performances of the amateurs; and twice a-year the garrison is enlivened by well contested races.

CLOSEPETT.

The last view of any interest on this route to the Falls of the Cavery and Neilgherry Hills, is one of the town of Closepett, about thirty miles from Bangalore; it bears the name of Sir Barry Close, who was appointed resident of the Mysore after the fall of Seringapatam, having been previously adjutant-general of the Madras army, and distinguished as much for his military as for his diplomatic talents. His acquirements as an oriental scholar were of the first order, and it was a common observation of the higher class of the natives, who knew him, that his pronunciation of the Persian and Hindoostanee languages was so perfect, that if speaking from behind a curtain, it would be impossible to recognize him as an European. Not far from hence is the pillar which bears the name of the intimate friend of Sir Barry Close, Mr. Josiah Webbe, a man whose exalted qualities and public services would have done honor to the best days of Greece or Rome, as is well

Drawn by A. Fox Pearse.

THE QUEEN'S STAG HUNT. (THE MEET.)

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expressed on the public monument raised to his memory in Fort St George. These were the radiant stars of that constellation of talent, by which the presidency of Madras was distinguished during the administration of Lord Clive, the remembrance of whose government will go down with unfading honor to posterity, a fit seqeul to the glorious services of his illustrious father.

The sloping ground on which Closepett is built, runs down to the river Arkavutty, over which is an excellent bridge of fifteen arches. On an opposite eminence is the public bungalow, a most commodious one, and a pleasant retreat for a week or two, for persons from Bangalore. On all sides of the plain in which this town stands, are hills of various shapes; and among them, several Ghurries or Droogs, or hill-forts, of former days, are conspicuous, particularly that of Ramghurry. At the foot of the hills an almost impenetrable jungle commences, extending for many miles in every direction, and infested by wild animals of various kinds, which often afford amusement to the lovers of oriental sporting.

Trusting now that my readers will find something in these sketches, that may prove both useful and interesting, I bid them adieu. In writing these pages I had two objects in view; one, of beguiling the tedious hours of a long sea-voyage of nearly five months; the other of giving to my friends and the public of India, all the information that is necessary concerning a portion of that country, of the beauties and advantages of which, so little is known either to the community in India, or to the government at home.

The first object I have effectually attained; and I hope, at some future period, to hear that my endeavours in the second have not been wholly unsuccessful.

APPENDIX.

ROUTE FROM MADRAS TO BANGALORE.
THE NEW ROAD.

(Places that have B. opposite, have a Bungalow.)

	To	Miles.
	Poonamallee	13
B.	Nellatoor	16
B.	Perimbaucum	7
B.	Teereemapoor	14
B.	Alleepaukum	10
B.	Alleecolum	11
B.	Tirulalum	8
B.	Laitery Fort	14
B.	Gorialtum	17
B.	Laulpett	8

		Miles.
B.	Nakanairy (top of pass) . . .	10
B.	Veucatagherry	7
B.	Baitnumgalum	11
B.	Colar	17
B.	Narsapoor	9
B.	Ooscottah	15
	Bangalore	16
	Total	208

This is the best route from Madras to Bangalore. The other route is by Vellore—but there is no public bungalow there, and the next stage, Policonda, has a very bad one—besides the road is not so good, and the river has to be twice crossed, which in the wet season is not always feasible.

THREE ROUTES FROM BANGALORE TO GOONDULPETT, *Via* THE FALLS OF THE CAVERY.

From Bangalore to		Miles.	Mysore Coss.
	Galagamutty	10½	or 3½
	Aurohully	9	„ 3
	Kankanhully	10	„ 3½
	Sunnahully	11	„ 3¾
	Halagoor	7½	„ 2½
	Malavelly	10	„ 3½
B.	Bulkawaddy	11	„ 3¾
B.	Island of Sivasamoodrum	3	„ 1
	Suttygaul	3	„ 1
	Colligaul	10	„ 3¾
	Kempapoor	9	„ 3
	Arracottara or Shumraz-nuggar	10	„ 3½
	Luckoor	10½	„ 3½
B.	Goondulpett	7½	„ 2½
	Total	122	„ 40½

DIRECT ROAD FROM OSSOOR TO KANKANHULLY.

From Ossoor to	Miles.		Coss.
Anicul	6	or	2
Murlawaddy	10½	,,	3½
Kankanhully	7½	,,	2½
Total	24	,,	8

FROM BANGALORE, *Via* CHEUNAPATAM.—THE BEST ROUTE.

Bangalore to	Miles.
B. Kingairy	7
B. Bidedee	12
B. Closepett	7
B. Cheunapatam	6
B. Muddoor	12
Malavelly (Choultry)	16
B. Bulkawaddy	12
B. Sivasamoodrum	3
Total	75

CANNANORE ROUTE.

The communication with Cannanore and the Neilgherries, passes through Wynaud. On leaving Oatacamund, the road to the westward lies over low, undulating, verdant heights, from which several clear streams descend, and are crossed between Oatacamund and the Pykarry river, a distance of ten miles. During the dry weather, this river may be crossed by a bed of rocks, but there is a ferry boat in a deep part of the stream for carriages, horses, and palankeens. This road is good for a carriage. From the Pykarry, the road ascends, leaving the river on the right, in a succession of ascents and descents, and rises to the summit of the Nidiwuttum ghaut, where is an excellent bungalow. The descent for about 1¼ mile, is more steep than the lower part. It then proceeds through rather an open forest, crossing two large streams by stone causeways, made by the pioneers, to Goodaloor three miles further. Here is a good bazaar and tolerable bungalow. The road from Goodaloor is almost west, the surface not very uneven, but close and hot from the quantity of bamboos on the road-side, up to the Pandy river, the bed of which is

very rocky. From thence to Davilla, a village situated beautifully in a cultivated valley. Thence, after crossing two large rivulets, it ascends very steeply to Nellyallum Cutchery, and then north-west to Shirleote, a populous village, and a beautiful situation. The road then runs over a level surface, with cultivation on both sides, to a small Pagoda and tank on the left; from thence it assumes a north-west course to a redoubt commonly called Sultan's Battery, but better-known in the country as Gunneyputty-wuttum. The road from Tamburcherry Pass, via Goondulpet to Mysore, crosses here. From this to Manantoddy, the road is excellent, and the distances of the whole are as follows;

From Oatacamund to the		Miles.
	Pyekarry River	10
B.	Top of the Pass	9
B.	Goodaloor	4½
	Davilla	8
	Nellyallum	4
	Shirleote	8
	Gunneyputty-wuttum . . .	6
	Panamurnacottah	16
B.	Manantoddy	9

	Miles.
Perrar	12
Nuddee Berunjud	6
Canute	8
Atapumboo	16
Calicut	14
Total	127½

ROUTE FROM OATACAMUND TO CALICUT, BY THE NEW KHOONDAH PASS.

Oatacamund to	Miles.	
The Bungalow across the river at the bottom of Avalanche Hill .	16	
B. The top of the Khoondah Pass . .	14	
The Pass	7	
Wundoor	12	
Nellumboor	6	
Mombutunguddy	5	7
Edamauguddy	3	5
B. Arricode	9	1
Calicut	27	1
Total	100	6

MR. SULLIVAN'S LETTER.

Neilgherries, March 15, 1828.

Dear Sir,

I hasten to offer my sincere thanks for your kind and considerate letter.

Having long endeavoured, but with little success, to impress upon the minds of your predecessors the great advantages which might be derived from the Neilgherries, it was with unmixed satisfaction that I saw the subject so warmly and so promptly taken up by yourself. I had ventured to suggest the appointment of a commanding officer, who should exercise controul over his juniors, and take upon himself much of the duty which had devolved upon me. I had repeatedly urged the experience of establishing an hospital for European soldiers—and in conversation with officers of rank, I had gone the length of stating my opinion, that as with reference to the great military stations of Bangalore, Trichinopoly, Quilon, Cannanore and Belgaum, the Neilgherries might be considered almost as the centre

of a circle, it would be expedient to make them a general depot for European troops. I venture to state these facts to show that without the greatest inconsistency, I could do no other than enter most cordially into your benevolent views. I have always considered that the judicious expenditure of thousands here, would lead to the saving of lacs. Duty and inclination equally impelled me to lend my zealous assistance to the furtherance of the plans of government.—It was therefore with feelings unusually painful, that I heard myself described as disaffected towards them, and as inclined to throw obstacles in the way of their execution. That these feelings were quite warranted, is matter of notoriety in the society here. I felt and acted most cordially towards the commanding officer, and should have been too happy, had that gentleman met me in the same spirit.

I do earnestly assure you that nothing that has passed, will in the slightest degree abate my zeal for the service.

I would readily have exchanged opinions with Major Kelso on the subject of the Bazars, if he had given me an opportunity of doing so; but as the work was commenced without my knowledge, and as the commanding officer had expressed his determination to continue it, in spite of the civil authorities, I felt satisfied that any

interference of mine would only serve to widen the breach. I might with safety appeal to those gentlemen who are most closely associated by Major Kelso, and who have no kind feelings towards me, to say whether this would not have been the consequence of any attempt on my part to enter into personal explanations with that gentleman. You will, I think, see that there is an unfriendly disposition towards me, in the minds of the authorities who are employed in superintending the works from a correspondence with the superintending engineer, which, to prevent misapprehension, I am obliged to forward to the Government. The prevalence of cholera up to the very tops of the passes has suspended our usual intercourse with the low-country, and interfered with our supplies. Distress has been the consequence, and it is intended, I am afraid, to throw the blame upon me. But I must again assure you that however personally I may regret these bickerings, they will not in the slightest degree be permitted to interfere with my public conduct. When I have the misfortune to differ in opinion with the military authorities, I must state my reasons, but I shall studiously avoid every occasion of difference.

The season is so much advanced, that I fear little can be done this year. I would have reccommended the

employment of all establishments upon two of the bungalows, leaving the Bazaar as an after object, because the demands for accommodation are unceasing, and there is no immediate want of a Bazaar.

The house rented by Government from me contains thirteen rooms: it was proposed to give each officer one room, and the use of the public room. This was the scale of accommodation adopted when Capt. Dun's house was purchased, and which I followed. By the present arrangement, each officer has, I believe, two rooms, which limits the accommodation to six officers.

The fear of burdening the government with the expense of keeping up the garden without an adequate object, alone deterred me from making it over with the house, and it is now nearly surrounded by the huts of the public Coolies, and Dooly bearers, and almost faced by the Bazaar. I could never with comfort make the house the residence of my family. I had intended stating these facts when a fit opportunity offered, and requesting that Government would take the garden without any additional rent, but merely upon a prolonged lease, and with the condition of keeping the garden up, and the house in repair. The ground is so extensive, and the spot altogether so favorable, that under judicious culture it might

be made to yield a produce adequate to the supply of the largest demand that can be made upon it. The scale of this produce would, I imagine, cover the expense of the garden establishment, so that the salary of a superintendant in the botanical branch would be the only additional expense, if such an appointment should be thought necessary. And as it appears to be the decided opinion of professional men, that many drugs might be cultivated here which are now imported from Europe at a great expense, this extra charge might in all probability be more than covered.

I shall avail myself of your kind indulgence to offer any suggestions that may occur to me on the general subject of the Hills, begging you to believe that no individual can feel so strong an interest in your benevolent views as myself.

I have the honour to be
Dear Sir, with great respect,
Most faithfully yours,
(Signed) J. SULLIVAN.

The Right Hon. S. R. LUSHINGTON,
Governor of Madras.

LETTER FROM DR. BAIKIE, SUPERINTENDING MEDICAL OFFICER ON THE NEILGHERRIES, TO LIEUT.-COLONEL MACLEAN.

Oatacamund, 1st August, 1832.

Sir;

In obedience to your desire, I have the honour to forward the annexed extracts from a report of the Neilgherries, forwarded to the Medical Board in February last.

The only additional observation which it appears necessary to make, is, that there is not a single disease incident to the climate of the Hills, or which can be considered as originating on them. A vast majority of those endemic or epidemic in other places, such as fever, cholera, &c., being at once checked in their progress, and modified in their results.

As it would only occupy the time of the committee unnecessarily, to enter into what would become a purely professional discussion on the effects of the climate on diseases, or on constitutions impaired by a residence on the low country, I conceive it will be sufficient to direct

their attention to the results, and with that view I have the honour to forward returns of the number of officers and men actually cured and returned to their duty, by a residence on the Hills, as far as can be shown from the records.

I have the honour to be

Sir, &c. &c.

(Signed) ROBERT BAIKIE, M.D.

Superintending Medical Officer,

Neilgherries.

To LIEUT. COL. MACLEAN,

President of the Committee,

&c. &c.

GENERAL ABSTRACT of OFFICERS, Civil and Military, recovered and returned to their duty by a Residence on the NEILGHERRY HILLS, from the commencement of the Records (March, 1830) to the present date.

	DISEASES.																								
	Abscess.	Dyspepsia.	Dimness of sight.	Dysentery.	Dropsy.	Diarrhœa.	Fever Ephem.	Fever Remittent.	Fever Intermittent	Gonorrhœa.	Gun-shot wound.	Head-ache.	Hepatic dis.	Hemorrhage.	Insanity.	Injury of the head.	Melancholy.	Phymosis.	Sprain.	Syphylis.	Tumour.	Ulcer.	Ulcer of Cornea.	Fracture.	Total.
His Majesty's Forces	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
Honourable Company's Forces	1	13	1	3	..	1	1	1	4	1	1	1	16	1	1	..	1	..	1	1	1	2	1	1	54
Civilians	..	3	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
																								Grand Total	68

(Signed) R. BAIKIE, M.D.
Supt. Medical Officer,
Neilgherries.

Ootacamund,
1st August, 1832.

N.B.—This return does not include Officers on the Hills, who have recovered but not yet proceeded to join.

GENERAL RETURN of European Soldiers of His Majesty's and the Hon. Company's Service, who have recovered in the Convalescent Depôt on the NEILGHERRY HILLS, and returned to their Regiments, but who, if no Sanitarium had existed, must have been invalided and sent to Europe.

From the establishment on 8*th May*, 1830, *up to* 1st *July*, 1832.

Regiments.	Abscess Lumbar.	Accidentia	Atrophia	Cephalgia	Diarrhœa.	Dysenteria.	Dyspepsia.	Enteritis.	Epilepsia.	Febris Continua.	Febris Intermit.	Febris Remit.	Hæmorrhois.	Hepatitis.	Hydrops.	Ophthalmia.	Palpitatis.	Paralysis.	Rheumatismus.	Scorbutus.	Total.
H. M. 13th Lt. Drags.	..	..	..	..	1	2	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	..	..	1	..	7
.. 26th Regiment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
.. 41st	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	1	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
.. 45th	..	..	..	..	2	1	..	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	8
.. 46th	..	..	..	..	1	3	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	2	..	..	1	..	..	..	8
.. 48th	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	4
.. 54th	..	..	..	3	..	2	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	1	10
.. 62d	..	..	..	1	2	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
.. 89th	..	..	1	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	5
Horse Artillery.....	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
1st Batt. Foot Artilly.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
2d	..	..	2	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	1	..	8
3rd	..	1	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	5	..	..	1	1	1	..	13
Mad. Eur. Rt. L. W.	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	..	3
Grand Total....	1	1	3	5	10	18	1	1	1	5	4	5	2	17	1	1	2	2	5	1	86

N.B.—This return does not include 17 men reported as recovered, but who have not proceeded to join their regiments — making the grand total of recoveries 103.

(Signed) R. BAIKIE, M.D.
Supt. Medical Officer,
Neilgherries.

EXTRACTS FROM A REPORT ON THE NEILGHERRIES, FORWARDED TO THE MEDICAL BOARD, IN FEB. 1832.

" Upon the whole it may be confidently asserted that the climate is one of the finest and most equable in the world, being for the greater part of the year dry, bracing, and exhilarating; that it is subject to no variations which can injure the sound European constitution, while its general condition is highly favorable to it; and that we are justified in concluding à priori, that it will be found eminently beneficial in restoring to health and strength those who have suffered from the high temperature and moist atmosphere of the low country.

" We shall now proceed to examine the last position in detail, taking experience for our guide.

" *General Effects of the Climate on Healthy Individuals.*

" 1st. The effects of the climate on residents, and particularly on children, are precisely those of the finest and most temperate part of Europe. Children thrive in a remarkable degree, having all that rosy complexion, and healthy, lively appearance, which is seldom seen, except

in the country-parts of Great Britain. They are subject to very few infantine complaints, and these when they occur are much modified by the climate, being less violent in their access, of shorter duration, the convalescence more rapid, and the sequel less to be dreaded than even in Europe.

"2nd. On first ascending the Hills, many people experience a difficulty of respiration, much increased on exertion, and only gradually disappearing on becoming habituated to the climate; this may be safely attributed to the tenuity of the atmosphere, being analagous to what is always experienced, though in a greater degree in ascending lofty mountains, and is probably increased by the augmented quantity of blood thrown on the internal organs, by the great and sudden change of temperature. The difference of temperature between any place, even in Mysore, and that of the first station on the Hills, can hardly be calculated at less than 35 or 40 degrees; the thermometer at Goodaloor, at the foot of the Hills, on the Mysore side, being seldom below 82° or 85°, while at Pyekarry on the Hills, there are few nights in which it does not descend below 48° or 45°. In ascending from the Coimbatoor side, the range is probably greater.

"It is is not unusual also for persons on their first arrival, to complain of slight headaches and sleeplessness, resulting probably from the same internal congestion; the digestion also does not always keep pace with the increase of appetite produced by the sharp air and additional exercise, particularly if the new-comer is seduced by the tempting array of vegetables usually placed before him.

"These trifling inconveniences however soon disappear, and with the most moderate degree of circumspection, a healthy European becomes in the course of one or two months perfectly equal to almost any degree of fatigue or exposure; exertion of either body or mind being attended with none of that depressing languor and exhaustion so universal in the low country, but producing on the contrary, that feeling of exhilaration and serenitywhich is so justly considered as one of the choicest blessings of a temperate climate.

"A most important conclusion appears naturally to arise from the consideration of these facts, namely, — the advantages of the cause both to humanity and policy that would result from the location on the Hills of European regiments newly arrived in India, whose

services are not immediately required in the low country, and who, while rescued from that decimation to which they are so notoriously exposed on their first arrival by the combined effects of climate and irregular habits, might be preserved in the highest state of discipline and efficiency, ready at a day's warning to march in any direction when required. This will be more obvious when we state that cholera (the great scourge of newly arrived European troops) is yet unknown as a primary disease on the Hills, and that even if it should be imported, the analogy of other diseases entitles us to conclude that it would be modified and rendered infinitely less fatal by the influence of the climate.

"The same observation applies, but with greater force, to the care of European recruits sent out for the Artillery and other European corps of the Hon. Company's army. Independent of the ordinary fertile causes of disease, to which they are exposed in common with all others, this class of individuals, mostly raw lads with unformed constitutions, has to undergo a very severe course of drilling at a station where the climate, though comparatively healthy, is decidedly one of the

hottest in India. The consequence may be easily foreseen; scarcely a single recruit gets through his drill, without being admitted once or oftener into hospital, and generally lays the foundation of some obstinate chronic disease, which in the course of a few years, if it does not terminate his existence, renders the unfortunate subject of it utterly inefficient for all active duties.

"If these recruits were at once transferred to the healthy and congenial climate of the Hills, under strict controul, as regards all necessary points of discipline and regimen, but allowed every reasonable license in other respects, made to go through their drill under circumstances where it would seem more an agreeable exercise than a harassing duty; and when perfectly prepared for their various departments transferred to the low country at a more matured age, with well formed constitutions and habits, it might be hoped, than they could have possibly acquired if exposed yet inexperienced to the temptations of a low country bazar, — are we not justified in confidently expecting the most beneficial result? Fortunately, these considerations have not escaped the attention of the intelligent and talented individual at the head of the Government, and there is

every reason to hope that his representations will finally induce the Court of Directors to sanction the establishment of a general Depôt on the Hills for all recruits, with corresponding accommodation for one or more European Regiments on their first arrival.

(Signed) "R. BAIKIE, M. D.
"*Superintending Medical Officer,*
"*Neilgherries.*"

MEMORANDUM ON THE CLIMATE OF DIMHUTTY.

"It appears from the register of the thermometer kept at Kotagherry, that the average difference of temperature betwixt that place and Oatacamund is, from five to six degrees; a difference not entirely depending on the relative elevation of the two places, which at the assumed rate of one degree per 380 feet, would only give three degrees of difference. Dimhutty being somewhat lower than Kotagherry, situated in a hollow, and less exposed to the wind, it may be assumed that there will be a further difference of one degree, or one in fifty, making the total overage of difference of temperature between Oatacamund and Dimhutty about eight degrees.

"The Medical Officer at Kotagherry being in possession of no meteorological instruments, except a thermometer, the subjoined observations are necessarily in some degree hypothetical, but being partly founded on my own observation, the Committee will know what weight to give them.

"During the north-east monsoon, Dimhutty being less exposed than Kotagherry, suffers less from the wind and rain; the temperature during the cold months is more equable than at Oatacamund, the thermometer never descending so low, and being completely sheltered by the mountain of Dodabetta and its subordinate ranges, from the south-west monsoon; the weather remains fine during the greater part of June, July, and August, the most wet and stormy months in all the central and west part of the range.

"The air at Dimhutty is considerably less rare, and more moist* than at Oatacamund, while its distance from the edge of the Hills, places it beyond all suspicion of dangers from the ascent of malaria from the jungle below; in which respect it has the advantage of Coonoor, Khoondah Ghaut, Neddewuttum, and Billicul—all of which are situated on the verge of the Hills, and are *said* (though not upon very accurate grounds) to be feverish at certain seasons.

"It thus appears that the climate of Dimhutty, while

* This must not be understood to mean that it contains more moisture, but that the moisture held in solution by it, is more easily rendered sensible.

it is less rare, less dry, and less bracing, and consequently less fit for Europeans in robust health, as well as for invalids in an advanced state of convalescence, is much milder, and at certain seasons more equable; that there is upon the whole much more dry weather during some seasons at least, and consequently more facility for taking exercise, than at Oatacamund.

"The important conclusion to be drawn from these facts is, that Dimhutty is better suited as a residence for invalids on their first arrival than Oatacamund; the change from the low country being less sudden, and the comparatively higher temperature and moister constitution of the air, being better calculated to keep up the action of the skin, and prevent the repulsion of blood from the surface upon the internal organs, already weakened by disease; an evil consequence which the greatest care is now and then insufficient to prevent at Oatacamund; particularly in the numerous cases of hepatic disease and mercurial rheumatism, and which often considerably retards the cure in these and other similar instances. The same considerations apply to the cases of asthma and determination of blood to the head, which generally undergo an aggravation, slight it is true, and

transient, but which it would still be desirable if possible to avoid on first ascending into the dry, cold, and highly rarefied atmosphere of Oatacamund.

"An important advantage offered by the difference of seasons at the two places, is the facility of transferring from one to the other, cases which suffer from sudden changes of weather, from electricity or from the want of exercise—on this head I speak with the more confidence, as I have tried the experiment by sending several invalids from Oatacamund to Kotagherry at the commencement of the southwest monsoon, with the most beneficial results.

"I have no hesitation therefore in earnestly recommending for the consideration of the Committee, the propriety of obtaining the sanction of government for the establishment of a subordinate sanitarium at Dimhutty for European soldiers, to contain from twenty-five to thirty-five men, and quarters for sick officers on a similar scale, to which generally they should be sent on their first arrival, and retained there till their cure is sufficiently advanced to admit their bearing with impunity the further change to Oatacamund, or on the other hand, to which they might be transferred from the

latter place, when bad weather or other circumstances render such a change advisable.

"With a view to ensure a proper selection of cases, they might all be submitted to the Superintending Medical Officer, for him to decide as to the prudence of placing them in the first instance at Dimhutty, or bringing them at once to Oatacamund—it being obviously unnecessary that all cases indiscriminately be submitted to that preliminary ordeal.

(Signed) "R. BAIKIE, M. D.
Superintending Medical Officer."

PRESIDENT'S MINUTE.

"I CANNOT leave the Neilgherry Hills without expressing my encreased confidence in the healthful effects of the climate, nor without an anxious desire, to place them within the reach of all classes of persons, (to whatever presidencies belonging) whose health has been injured by the heat of the plains of India.

"The expence of house-rent, together with the uncertainty of obtaining a lodging upon the first arrival, restrains many in the subordinate ranks of the service, and especially those who are married, from flying to the Hills, before dangerous diseases have made a fatal progress. To provide for these cases, I have therefore determined to place the bungalows I bought from the Missionary Society at Dimhutty, under the care of the officer commanding on the Hills, and of the principal collector of the district; and I request that they will form such regulations as shall in their opinion be best calculated to afford to persons who really stand

in need of lodging on their first arrival, this essential comfort free of expence.

"As the bungalows are now in good repair, no expence on this account will be required for two or three years. But the Committee, who are charged with the buildings, can hereafter require from those who can best afford it such moderate sums, and no more, as will be sufficient to keep up the buildings, so that they may continue to be a comfort to six families, (or a greater number of bachelors,) which I calculate that the six bungalows are capable of accommodating.

"Separate from the buildings and the flower garden, is one of the earliest, and still one of the best kitchen-gardens, on the Hills. This I intend should be also applied for the use of the persons occupying the bungalows, under the direction of the officer commanding, recommending that old Govindoo, or some of his family may be retained in charge under such arrangements as may be thought best.

"As I shall always take a deep interest in the settlement on the Hills, I would request that the public Officers, to whom the Dimhutty premises are consigned, may transmit to me an annual report of the

number of families or persons accommodated, and that no charge may be made in the regulations now to be established for the use of the building and garden, without my concurrence.

"S. R. LUSHINGTON."

"*Sankerrydroog.*
24th August, 1832."

"Since I wrote the above, it has occurred to me that, it will be right to retain for my son who is compelled by sickness to reside on the Neilgherries, the option of occupying one of the six bungalows, where change of air may be recommended to him."

TO THE QUARTER MASTER GENERAL OF THE ARMY.

" *Fort St. George.*

" Sir,

" I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 7th ultimo, accompanied by a copy of an extract from the Minutes of Consultation of the 1st November, 1831.

" In obedience to His Excellency the Commander in Chief's orders, I immediately determined and gave directions, on what was further to be done to the Coonoor Ghaut, and then proceeded myself towards the Koondahs, to prosecute the investigation required by the latter part of the above minute.

" I quitted Oatacamund on the 10th ultimo, in company with Major Crewe, and Lieutenant and Adjutant Le Hardy. We first proceeded in a direction due West, towards a high and perpendicular mountain, named the Moorkutty Peak, overlooking the Province of Malabar, and in the neighbourhood of which our previous information had led us to believe that the Pass

opened into the low country. Moorkutty Peak is distant from Oatacamund eighteen miles, and we ascended its summit on the 11th ultimo, and remained in its neighbourhood for four days, exploring and examining in every direction for some opening into the low country.

"All the descents were found to be abrupt and precipitous, and it was soon obvious that there was no Ghaut practicable in this part of the hills to Nellamboor.

"On the 15th ultimo, some guides joined us, sent by Mr. Huddleston, and stated that the Pass was distant thirty miles from where we were, indicating its position to be in a south-westerly direction.

"We started on the following morning (the 16th ultimo,) but from the badness of the weather, and the want of roads we did not reach the summit of the Koondah Ghaut, with our tents and baggage, till the morning of the 21st. Mookamully Peak, laid down in the maps, and known to the natives by that name, is the only, and most conspicuous mark to distinguish this Ghaut, there being neither hut, village nor mund in its neighbourhood. Its distance from Oatacamund

is about thirty-five miles, and its direction south-West.

"It is situated at the south-western extremity of the Koondahs.

"This Pass has never heretofore been used, except by bands of smugglers: they found it guarded by elephants and impracticable forests, which with its remote situation made it well adapted for the carrying on in secrecy of their unlawful trade.

"Lieutenant Le Hardy and I, endeavoured to descend the Ghaut on the forenoon of the 21st. taking the perambulator with us, and a party of pioneers with hatchets and axes, to clear the obstructed passages. We expected to have nearly reached the bottom of the actual Ghaut. We found the road most steep, difficult and tedious, not passable for horses, and after descending for two miles, we returned, to avoid being benighted. I sent on a Havildar, (who had learned to use the perambulator,) with pioneers and guides, and gave him orders to push on till he reached Mungeree in the low country, a large village not far from the Beypoor river, and in the direct road to Calicut.

"The party took three days to reach Mungaree,

having had to cut their way through many parts of the jungle, and being much incommoded, after descending the Ghaut, by small leeches, which are very numerous at the foot of the hills. They returned withut any accident or misfortune, to the top of the Ghaut, and brought their report to me there, on Sunday the 27th ultimo.

"I send the result of the Havildar's survey, extracted from his Malabar Reports.

"It will thus be seen, that all has gone on well so far, and that the Pass is practicable. The great object now is to find out a good line of direction with the gentlest declivity we can obtain. In opening new Ghauts, the plan is to disregard the old tracks and never to cease laboring, nor to desist from fresh trials, till a new and eligible line is discovered. This was the method pursued with the Coonoor Ghaut, the final success of which has well rewarded the labor bestowed on it.

"I have now fifty men employed under a European officer ,in cutting away the jungle, and marking out a good path-way. They will in a short time get to the bottom of the Ghaut, the whole descent of which

is seven miles two furlongs, after this, all will be comparatively easy.

"What I would recommend first, and what I propose doing is, to open the Ghaut so as to make a passage for horses, palankeens and laden bullocks, six feet wide will suffice for this in the first instance, and I would carry a road of the same breadth, all the way from the summit of the Ghaut, to Oatacamund.

"A detachment of the corps may perform this duty, and it need very little impede the important work at Coonoor, where I would wish to keep the largest proportion of the corps.

"All is now in progress; and I would beg to have this report considered only as a preliminary one, as respects the Koondah Pass, as on my next and approaching excursion to it, I purpose to descend to the bottom, and to execute a survey and plan of it, which together with a report,will, I hope, give all necessary information.

"I shall now state what I have done regarding the Coonoor Ghaut, the utility and advantage of which will be best appreciated if a comparison is made between it, and all the other passes leading to the Neilgherries.

"The Coonoor Ghaut, is incomparably the best of any of the mountain passes. The following are some of its main advantages.

"1st. It is the nearest of any to the presidency.

"2nd. It is easy of access, and does not expose travellers to the slightest risk of jungle fever, and is of a uniform and gentle declivity throughout.

"3rd. It is the only one of all the passes, that can be safely used by foot-passengers.

"4th. It leads at once to a mild and healthful climate at its summit.

"5th. It is only a short march afterwards, with a good road from its summit to Oatcamund.

"6th. By throwing a bridge across the Bhavany, near Mattapolliam, and completing the works now in progress, an excellent and uninterrupted communication by this pass will be opened all the way from Madras to the Neilgherries; so that a carriage may be safely driven from Government House to Oatacamund. The Coonoor Ghaut, was altogether unknown till the year 1829, when the Right Honorable the Governor, observing its favorable position, directed Lieutenant Le Hardy to trace out a foot-path from the top to the

bottom.—This was successfully done, and its superior advantages became soon so apparent, that the other passes in its neighbourhood were nearly abandoned.

"The actual extent of this Ghaut, is six miles and a half, and the lower part as remarked by the Right Honorable the Governor, on his recently descending it, was too precipitous to be made convenient for wheeled carriages. This was a valid objection, and unless it could have been obviated by an improved line was altogether insuperable. I rejoice to say, that Lieutenant Le Hardy, by his skilful and unwearied exertions, has discovered a new direction by going a little higher up the hill, which will effectually take away from the steepness of the descent, and render the whole Ghaut easily practicable for wheeled carriages. The descent by the new direction will only be about fifteen inches in ten feet, and the soil will be easier to work upon; there will be less declivities to cut away, and fewer rocks to blast.

"I have accordingly changed the direction; it was only yesterday that it was traced out to the very bottom of the Ghaut.

"In obedience to the Minute of Council, I have

diminished the breadth of the road by making it only twelve instead of twenty feet wide.—This will greatly abridge the labour and time required for the completion of the Ghaut, and the work may at any time afterwards be resumed, should Government deem it expedient to do so, and may then be finished in the same manner as it has been so successfully begun. One third of the work, I may say, is already accomplished, water-courses or channels have been constructed, and are constructing, at every fifty yards, and I find by experience, that nothing tends to preserve the durability of a Ghaut more effectually than this.

"I fixed upon twelve feet as the breadth of the Ghaut, in communication with Major Crewe, whose knowledge of the hills and desire of their improvement enabled him to form a correct opinion on the subject. This breadth will still make a very good road, but if narrower, it would be insufficient for the great thoroughfare which the Coonoor Ghaut has now become.—Besides, roads are apt to crumble and wear away at the sides, and if made only barely sufficient, they would soon become obstructed, and require repairs to keep them passable. Were the lower part of the Coonoor

Ghaut not to be widened, there would scarcely be a vestige of a road left after six months, as the vast number of bullocks and horses constantly moving on it, would wear it out.—The case is very different with regard to passes little frequented.—The lower part of the Coonoor Ghaut had just undergone repair, before the Governor went down, and it had several 'times before been repaired, while the head quarters of the corps were at Oatacamund. Without such repairs, it would speedily get into bad order; and often before, from the shelving in of the bank and the wearing away of the road, it became impassable, till the obstructions were removed.

"Lieutenant Le Hardy is preparing a full plan of the Coonoor Ghaut, which he surveyed in 1830, and which will shew the proposed new line; when finished I shall have the honor of transmitting it for submission to His Excellency Sir Robert O'Callaghan.

"While the Neilgherries continue to be resorted to, and to possess their high reputation, the Coonoor Ghaut, will always be the grand entrance into them, which will be best seen by a short description of the other Ghauts.

STREEMOOGAH PASS.

"Streemoogah Bungalow is situated on the left bank of the Bhavany river, and is only six miles from Mattapolliam, previous to the discovery of the Coonoor pass, the Streemoogah was reckoned the safest and easiest of access of any of the passes, and was much frequented. It admits of palankeens, horses, and laden cattle to go up it with ease. It leads, as is well known, to Dimhutty, its distance from whence is sixteen miles, and is, the whole way, one continued ascent and descent, thus rendering the passage excessively tedious. The superior facilities of the Coonoor Ghaut, which is close to it, have almost entirely superseded Streemoogah.

"There has also been a road lately made, direct from Mattapollium to Kotagherry, by Mr. Thomas, the collector, distance only twelve miles, which avoids Streemoogah altogether, and renders it unnecessary for travellers to sleep by the way. This, which may be called the Kotagherry Pass, is however excessively steep, it is nearly ten miles in length, and as no good

bundy road can ever be made, by the present line, from Kotagherry to Oatacamund, it is not likely that this pass can ever come into extensive use.

DANAIKINCOTTAH PASS.

"This is another pass, a little further to the north, also leading to Dimhutty. It is more circuitous than the other, (being twenty miles from Danaikincottah to Dimhutty, but passes for a considerable way over easy ground. It is only a foot path, has never been much frequented, and is now likely to fall into total disuse.

KEELOOR PASS.

"The path up this Ghaut, is tolerably good, but is of difficult ascent. It is five miles and a half in extent, and is the nearest road from Oatacamund to Paulghaut, Cochin, &c. The natives however almost uniformly forsake it, and come by Coonoor in preference. It is unhealthy at the bottom, and is now only frequented by a few Brinjaries. Keeloor has a bungalow near it. It is eight miles to the south of Kaitee,

and is ten miles from Soondaputty on the left banks of the Bhavany. The foot of the Ghaut is hilly, and covered with jungle.

SEEGOOR PASS.

"Seegoor is the nearest and most direct pass from Bangalore to Oatacamund. The ascent is excessively steep, but not more than four miles in length. The road leading to it is of difficult access, surrounded by forests and extremely unhealthy. On this account, it has been well nigh abandoned, and Goodaloor substituted in preference to it, by which route, bearers are now uniformly posted for travellers. Much labour and expence would be incurred to make Seegoor a safe and convenient route.

THE GOODALOOR OR NEDDAWUTTUM PASS.

"This pass has been made by the pioneers, and the road, although steep, is very good; it is with much difficulty that Bundies can get up. It now forms the high road from Bangalore to Oatacamund, passing

through Goondulpett, Mungalum and Karkaree.—By an unremitting march in a palankeen, travellers may by this route, reach the Hills in safety, but their servants and followers, who come on foot are exposed to disease and death from the jungle fever, the malignity of which is but too well known.

"The safe route (although about sixty miles further round,) from Bangalore to Oatacamund, is by Oossore, —the Tapoor pass, Salem, Avanashy, Mattapollium and Coonoor. By this route the Commander in Chief, has ordered all European soldiers and detachments, proceeding from Bangalore to the Hills, to march; thereby, I am persuaded, saving the lives of many brave men for the future service of their country, and thus by the test of experience, recognizing the advantages of the Coonoor Ghaut.

CAREOOR PASS.

"This pass is ascended in the present route from Calicut to Oatacamund. It leads to the Table Land of Mysore, and the Goodaloor pass has afterwards to be ascended. This route from Calicut to Oatacamund,

is consequently attended with all the disadvantages noticed under the head of Goodaloor Pass.

" The safe route from Calicut although very circuitous, is by Paulghaut, Coïmbatoor, Mattapollium and Coonoor.

" The present route from Cannanore to Oatacamund, is by the Periah Pass, Manantoddy and Goodaloor; but when the Koondah Ghaut is opened, the direct road from all places on the Western coast, will be by the Koondah Ghaut; as the direct road from all places on the Coromandel coast now is by the Coonoor Ghaut. In process of time, these two passes, the Coonoor and the Koondah, will, from their superior utility, supersede, in a great degree, all the other passes leading to the Neilgherries.

" I have the honor to be, &c.,

(Signed) " W. MURRAY, Captain,

" In charge of Pioneer Corps."

Neilgherries,
10*th December*, 1831.

TO CAPTAIN LIMOND, OFFICIATING MILITARY SECRETARY TO THE RIGHT HON. W. LUSHINGTON.

"*Foot of the Avalanche,*
9th June, 1832.

"My dear Sir,

"I have the greatest pleasure in sending my final report of the Koondah Ghaut to you.

"This Report, will shew the Governor what the pioneers have done, and are capable of doing under his encouragement; and if he deems proper to publish, —it will be an appropriate supplement to his own General Order, and will manifest to all India, what the Madras pioneers, under the Governor's personal directions, have been able to execute.

"It will be the glory of Mr. Lushington's government, without any extravagant hyperbole, that he has introduced Europe into Asia, for such are his improvements in the Neilgherries. For what were formerly all the advantages of that climate, when disease and death were to be encountered in the access and approach to them?

"The Coonoor and Koondah Ghauts (his own special works,) will be to all succeeding times, monuments of his beneficence and wisdom. I do not say this from flattery, but from firm conviction of mind. No power on earth can now keep down the approved and tried celebrity of the Neilgherries. In process of time they will become one of the noblest Colonies in the known world. In their future history, Mr. Lushington will be recorded as their illustrious, enlightened, and early benefactor. It is easy to do good by treading in the paths of others, but credit and honor are due to him who first projected the good, and pointed out the untried path. The Neilgherries were comparatively unknown before Mr. Lushington's day.

"Believe me yours very sincerely.

(Signed) "W. MURRAY."

TO CAPTAIN THOMAS KENNEDY LIMOND, OFFICIATING MILITARY SECRETARY TO THE RIGHT HON. THE GOVERNOR.

"*Camp at the foot of Avalanche Hill,*
1*st June*, 1832.

"Sir,

"I have much pleasure in reporting to you, for the information of the Right Honorable the Governor, that I have completed the passage of the Khoondahs from their summit into the Malabar country, and have united my road with the one in the low country, leading to Cunule, Mungerry, Angadyporrum &c. From this last village, there is a road that leads to Paulghaut.

"At the close of the rains, a direct road can be made from the bottom of the Ghaut to Vaudoor, which will open the communication to Anacode, and from thence by water to Calicut.

"This splendid pass at once lays the Neilgherries open to receive the rich productions of Malabar, and the are traders sedulously availing themselves of the means to carry on a commerce to the reciprocal benefit of the two countries.

"Nothing can surpass the healthiness of every part

of this Ghaut, and it is with gratitude to Providence I am enabled to repeat that *not a single casualty* among the pioneers has occurred at the Khoondahs, during the whole period that the corps has been on duty there.

"Throughout my operations, I have received uniform aid, from the principal collector in Malabar, Mr. Middleston, which with that gentleman's accurate account of the climate and seasons, materially contributed to my success.

"Since the period of the Governor's visit of inspection to the Khoondahs, six miles of mountain road have been completed and every impediment surmounted, being a progress, I imagine, rarely equalled by any body of men of equal strength.

"This stupendous work in which there were vast forest trees to be felled, deep chasms to be built up, causeways over every river and mountain torrent to be constructed, and rocks to be removed, was begun on the 10th of January, and ended on the 31st of May, 1832.

"I have the honor to be

"Your most obedient humble servant,

(Signed) "W. MURRAY,
Cap. Com. Pioneers."

COPY OF A LETTER ADDRESSED TO RAMASWAMI MUDELIAR, JAGHIRDAR OF SIVASAMOODRUM, &c. &c.

"*Royal Asiatic Society's House,*
Grafton Street, Bond Street,
23d July, 1833.

"Sir,

"I have the honor to apprise you, that the model of the Lushington granite-stone Bridge, erected by you over the western branch of the river Cavery at Sivasamoodrum, which model was entrusted by you to the care of the Right Honorable Stephen Rumbold Lushington, late Governor of Fort St. George, for presentation to the Royal Asiatic Society, has been safely brought to its destination by that gentleman, and was laid before the Society at a general meeting held on the 6th instant.

"In addition to the official letter of thanks for this donation, which I have the pleasure to forward, I am instructed to express to you, the high sense which the Society entertains of your liberal and disinterested conduct, in effecting as you have done such extensive improvements in the island of Sivasamoodrum and its

communications, of which the Lushington Bridge is not the least important. The opinion of the Council on this subject, you will find recorded in its last annual report to the members of the Society, of which I enclose a copy. You will observe from this report, that you had been proposed for election as a corresponding member of the Society, and I have the honor to transmit by this opportunity your Diploma of election, together with a copy of the part of the Transactions of the Society which contains your interesting account of the Island and bridges of Sivasamoodrum, and twenty-five extra copies of this account, to which you are entitled by the regulations of the Society.

"I trust that these proofs of the respect in which your character and exertions are held by the Royal Asiatic Society will reach you in safety, and that the Society may have the pleasure to learn they have done so by a direct communication from you.

"I have the honor to be,

"Sir, Your most obedient

"Very humble servant,

(Signed) "H. HARKNESS,

Secretary."